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Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you heed DEQ's advice to stay out of the water whenever it issues red flag notices?

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INSIDE

Ms. Junior Teen
A Saipan-born lass who recently moved to California has been crowned Miss Jr. Teen San Diego.

LOCAL...Page 14

New iPhone
The next iPhone has a higher-resolution screen and thinner design.

BUSINESS...Page 15

New Memoir
Demi Moore, an actress famous for showing all, will now tell all.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

DUE TO LACK OF FUEL FOR CUC

NMI under state of emergency

Fuel supply will last only a day or two

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth is now under a state of emergency due to the lack of sufficient fuel to power the islands' generators and the imminent threat this poses to the continued supply of water and electrical services.

The current fuel supply for Saipan will last only a day or two after the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. managed to procure just 126,000 gallons of fuel yesterday.

CUC executive director Tony Muña confirmed that the Fitial administration gave CUC a little over $300,000 yesterday to buy fuel for power plants 1 and 4.

A total of 84,000 gallons were delivered yesterday for Power Plant 1, while about 42,000 gallons went to Power Plant 4. Both supplies will last through Thursday.

Muña said the amount was made available after Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed the emergency declaration yesterday

See NMI on Page 4

Delayed salaries for Tinian nurses too; 42K needed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Eleven nurses and other medical staff at the Tinian Health Center have not been paid their salaries for two pay periods between April 25 and May

See DELAYED on Page 4

4 drums of hazardous chemicals fall from truck

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Four 55-gallon drums of hazardous chemicals that are used to make plastic water containers rolled off from a speeding truck at the Middle Road intersection near Payless Shoe Source in San Jose around 11:45am yesterday, causing safety concerns and traffic woes.

Emergency responders rushed to the scene due to safety concerns if and when the drums leak.

Marvin Seman, an environmental specialist at the Division of Environmental Quality, said the four gallons each contain unsaturated polyester resin, which he described as a level 3 hazardous chemical and is flammable.

He said the drums contain-

See 4 DRUMS on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Four 55-gallon drums of unsaturated polyester resin, a hazardous chemical that is used to make plastic water containers, lie on the ground after falling from a speeding truck at the Middle Road intersection near Payless Shoe Source in San Jose yesterday, snarling traffic and causing emergency responders to rush to the scene for health and environmental safety concerns.

Fernandez sues NMC, four regents

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Former Northern Marianas College president Carmen Fernandez hauled the college and four regents to court yesterday for alleged wrongful termination and defamation.

Fernandez sued regents Janet H. King Maria Castro "Paz" Younis, Andrew L. Orsini, and Frank Rabauliman for allegedly depriving her of her good name and property, conspiracy, defama-

See FERNANDEZ on Page 4

Fernandez

850 young Japanese businessmen arrive on Saipan. PAGE 2
Four in human smuggling case found guilty. PAGE 2

Local

850 young Japanese businessmen arrive on Saipan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Over 850 young Japanese businessmen—members of the Junior Chamber International in Japan—started arriving on Saipan on Monday for a cultural exchange with over 200 Saipan residents this afternoon.

The biggest contingency—some 600—will be arriving at 7:30am today aboard the cruise ship Fuji Maru, which departed Nagoya this weekend.

Takashi Nagaoka, manager of PMT, one of the tour agencies in the CNMI, said yesterday that this is the third time that Fuji Maru has visited Saipan; the previous times were in 2006 and 2007.

The other 250 young businessmen arrived by plane on Monday and Tuesday, he added.

"This is the 37th JC Youth Voyage Tokaigo," he said.

Hiroko Tenorio of the Marianas Visitors Authority said the "friendship party" will be held at 5pm today at the American Memorial Park in Garapan.

The food booths used at the Taste of the Marianas will be used in today's cultural exchange program between Japanese and CNMI residents, but with different vendors.

Nagaoka and Tenorio said the visiting businessmen are between the ages of 20 and 40.

"Having over 850 businessmen here will mean good business for retailers and other businesses here. It's good for the economy, and good for cultural exhange," Nagaoka said.

This is also the biggest group of Japanese businessmen to come to the CNMI in recent years.

Tenorio said Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and other dignitaries have been invited to the "friendship party."

Press secretary Angel Demapan confirmed that the governor and the lieutenant governor will be at the event.

"At the American Memorial Park, there will be food booths, cultural dances and games," Tenorio said.

The hundreds of visiting businessmen will also be touring Saipan's northern part, including the Last Command Post and Banzaii Cliff, on Thursday morning. They will also be going shopping and sightseeing in Garapan before Fuji Maru departs Saipan on Thursday afternoon.

4 in human smuggling case found guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

After a five-day trial in federal court, four Chinese nationals were found guilty yesterday of attempting to illegally enter Guam via Rota.

The 12 jurors handed down guilty verdicts on Shixu Huang, Lihua Yi, Pingping Zhang, and Zhanshan Zhang for conspiracy to defraud the United States.

The four are scheduled to be sentenced on Sept. 14, 2010.

The U.S. Attorney's Office said the four face a potential prison sentence of not more than five years.

In a statement, U.S. Attorney Leonardo M. Rapadas said this conviction should send a clear message that attempts to enter Guam illegally are not just incredibly dangerous but may also result in federal convictions and jail time.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Kirk W. Schuler and Eric O'Malley prosecuted the case. Special agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Coast Guard, and Rota's Department of Public Safety assisted in the investigation.

Schuler said the defendants, all citizens of China, attempted to sneak into Guam from the CNMI using small rubber boats to cross the 30 miles of open ocean separating the two U.S. territories.

Defense lawyers Michael Dotts, G. Anthony Long, Bruce Berline, and Mark Hanson were not available for comments as of press time.

A fifth defendant, Jingfan Zhang, male, pleaded guilty as part of a plea bargain with the U.S. government. He testified for the prosecution during the trial.

Jingfan Zhang disclosed that their plan was to go to Guam, seek asylum, and find jobs. He testified how they prepared the boats and how authorities arrested them at the West Harbor dock on Rota in the early morning of Jan. 30, 2010.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge William Alsup presided over the trial.

Special agent Isra D. Harahap of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement testified that he first received information from a Saipan resident about human smuggling from Rota to Guam in December 2009.

On Jan. 26, Harahap said, he received information from the CNMI Office of the Attorney General that two Chinese nationals were boarding a Freedom Air flight to Rota with two inflatable boats and two outboard engines. The agent said he was able to verify with Freedom Air that Huang and Jingfan Zhang were aboard the Freedom Air 200 flight from Saipan to Rota.

The two were arrested with three others in the early morning of Jan. 30, 2010, as they were about to leave the West Harbor dock on Rota for Guam.

Torres: Restore CUC's procurement authority

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) pre-filed a bill that seeks to restore the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s procurement authority to give CUC the flexibility needed to partner with the private sector to provide reliable service at efficient rates, including fuel.

Torres

This comes at a time when Gov. Benigno R. Fitial declared another state of emergency to allow for fuel purchases for CUC to run its power plants, even as government agencies continue non-payment for power and water services received.

Torres, in pre-filing House Bill 17-80, said portions of Public Law 16-17 have placed restrictions on CUC, which lead to "inefficiencies that translate directly into higher costs to consumers."

"These inefficiencies must be removed. It is the purpose of this Act to remove the impediments and inefficiencies and restore CUC's procurement authority such that it will be able to enter into agreements with providers to ensure efficient delivery of services at reasonable rates to consumers," he said, referring to procurement processes, private sector assistance agreements,

Torres said CNMI ratepayers deserve a utility that constantly delivers high quality power at reasonable prices.

Oil prices are approaching $100 per barrel for deliver to Saipan, and well over $100 per barrel for delivery to Rota.

"It is imperative that CUC be able to provide service which is affordable to the Commonwealth's residents and businesses," Torres said.

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Federal court allows the temporary release of Arriola

Press secretary Demapan serves as third party custodian

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court allowed yesterday the temporary release of Joseph Aldan Arriola, a lawyer who is awaiting sentencing for stealing over $600,000 from an estate.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge William Alsup granted Arriola's request to be temporarily freed for humanitarian consideration.

Arriola's sentencing is on June 23.

According to his lawyer, Steven Pixley, Arriola's mother is seriously ill.

Alsup allowed press secretary Angel Demapan to serve as Arriola's third party custodian. They are half-brothers.

The judge reminded Arriola not to step out of the house during his temporary release. "You are stuck in the house just like in jail. But you will be with your mother," Alsup told him.

Arriola's temporarily release is conditioned on several requirements: a $25,000 unsecured bond, surrender of his passport and not obtaining a new one, not leaving Saipan without court permission, no possession of firearm, and no illegal drugs and alcohol.

The judge also directed the U.S. Probation Office to place Arriola on electronic or location monitoring, and to conduct a random check on him at the house.

Pixley said that Arriola's mother is seriously ill from a stroke and diabetes and there's concern that she may not survive. Pixley asked the court to temporarily release his client so he can spend some time with his mother.

Pixley said Arriola's sentencing will be on June 23 and he will likely serve prison time in the U.S. mainland.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley objected to Arriola's release, saying the defendant was a fugitive from justice for two years when he fled to the Philippines.

While the U.S. government is sympathetic with the health conditions of Arriola's mother, O'Malley said that granting temporary release is "a little bit much" considering the seriousness of the charges.

Demapan told the court his mother will be at home with his sister and will keep watch on Arriola, when he goes to work. Demapan also stated that Arriola will be in the same room with their mother.

Arriola pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and one count of wire fraud as part of a plea agreement with the U.S. government.

Arriola admitted that he made unauthorized removal of certain funds from the estate of Rita Kaipat in violation of a Superior Court order.

Arriola was hired as lawyer for the Kaipat estate's then administrator, Luis Pelisamen. Arriola and Pelisamen set up an account in the Bank of Hawaii where they deposited the estate's $1.37 million. According to the prosecution, Arriola and Pelisamen helped themselves to the money.

The Superior Court kicked out Pelisamen and Arriola from the estate after finding out that some of the estate's money was missing.

The two were subsequently indicted for stealing $625,575 from the estate's account.

Arriola fled to the Philippines, while Pelisamen was arrested and subsequently found guilty and sentenced to five years in prison.

Philippine authorities arrested Arriola on June 16, 2009. On Nov. 25, 2009, the Philippine government deported Arriola to Saipan. Arriola's wife is from the Philippines and they have a son.

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NMI

From Page 1

morning. The declaration suspends procurement and regulatory provisions to allow the governor to reprogram funds as necessary to meet the emergency.

"We bought fuel supply just enough to last a few more days…and this is a result of the new emergency declaration signed this morning by the governor," said Muña.

He disclosed that between now and Friday, CUC still needs to find $1.2 million to place a new order for the next few days' supply on three islands.

Muña said 15,000 gallons is needed for Rota, enough to provide power until next week, but the order must be made by Thursday. CUC also needs to place an order of 170,000 gallons for Tinian.

In his emergency declaration, Fitial said there is an imminent crisis.

"CUC only has a day or two worth of purchased oil to power its system because it lacks the funds to buy oil from its sole, cash-only supplier," Fitial said.

Fitial disclosed that CUC requires about 61,080 gallons to provide power each day on Saipan; 7,500 gallons per day on Tinian; and 1,610 gallons per day on Rota.

When CUC had the cash, it would buy a month's worth of fuel at a time, which it stored in Mobil's fuel tanks and withdrew as needed.

This time, though, CUC lacks the funds to buy oil, mainly because its largest customers have failed to pay large overdue bills. To date, this obligation totals $3.8 million.

At the same time, Fitial said that CUC is not credit-worthy and has no ability to borrow money.

Fitial said that he has repeatedly asked the Legislature to provide the CNMI with a budget that will allow for timely utility bill payments while reducing expenses in other areas so that the CNMI can live within its means.

Alternatively, the governor said he has asked the Legislature for authority to reprogram funds but the Legislature has failed to provide either.

"As a result, the CNMI now faces a crisis—electricity will stop within days because the government has failed to pay CUC for the millions of dollars of electricity and the oil producing it, which the government has consumed," Fitial said.

The governor said that CUC has enough diesel fuel for Saipan's power needs through June 8; Tinian through June 18; and Rota through June 12.

The declaration stated that there is no alternative to providing this relief other than an order from the governor.

"Inaction will produce a disaster. A declaration of emergency would provide the governor with authority to take the necessary steps to avert the crisis," he said.

Disconnection notices expire Friday

CUC issued last week disconnection notices to the government for delinquent utility payments. This notice will expire on Friday.

However, Muña said yesterday that both CUC and the administration are now working on a "settlement" to prevent the disconnection of services to departments and instrumentalities.

The government is CUC's biggest customer and is delayed in its payment for four months. Other big customers are the Public School System and Northern Marianas College.

Muña said that once a settlement is finalized, both PSS and NMC would be included in the negotiation.

"They would also be included in the settlement we're working with the central government because they're getting money from the government," Muña explained.

Muña said he is constantly meeting with Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos and the Department of Finance on the power and fuel situation and how this could be addressed.

FERNANDEZ

From Page 1

tion, and conspiracy to defame her. She sued NMC for alleged wrongful termination and breach of contract.

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments from King but she was not immediately available.

Fernandez, through counsel Brien Sers Nicholas, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order NMC and the board to pay her damages, attorney's fees, and court costs. She also demanded a jury trial.

Fernandez's contract with NMC was for a term of four years, from May 7, 2009 through May 6, 2013. She was to receive an annual salary of $80,000, vacation leave at eight hours per pay period, and sick leave at four hours per pay period.

Fernandez claims that King, Younis, Orsini, and Rabauliman conspired to defame her by portraying her as having committed a crime while NMC president.

Fernandez's lawyer, Nicholas, said that in a Jan. 4, 2010 work session meeting attended by just King, Younis, Orsini, and Rabauliman, King interrogated Fernandez about her attending and inviting NMC students to the confirmation hearing for regent Charles V. Cepeda on Dec. 30, 2009.

Nicholas said King called for another work session meeting on Jan. 8, 2010, during which Fernandez was again interrogated about a certain student grade that she had authorized to be changed.

During the course of the meeting, King, Younis, Orsini, and Rabauliman attempted to place Fernandez on an administrative leave, according to Nicholas.

The counsels for NMC and the board, however, advised the four that such an act is legally feasible given that the meeting was not called pursuant to the Open Government Act, Nicholas said.

He said King immediately set a special meeting for the board to be held on Jan. 12, 2010 to address Fernandez's employment.

The lawyer said King then issued a memorandum advising Fernandez that a board's Investigative Committee "has been formed for the purposes" of investigating her.

He said King's representation turned out to be false as no such investigative committee was or has ever been formed in this case.

Nicholas said that during the Jan. 12, 2010 meeting, King, Younis, Orsini, and Rabauliman were the only board members who voted for Fernandez's suspension.

"Plaintiff was never informed at said meeting of the reason or reasons why said defendants decided to suspend her employment with NMC, much less given an opportunity to be heard or defend herself against her being suspended," Nicholas said.

He said that Fernandez only learned on Jan. 29, 2010, after talking with the lawyers for the defendants, that her suspension had to do with her decision to change certain students' grades and her decision not to renew the employment contract of a certain employee.

The board then instigated two investigations against Fernandez, Nicholas said, and a hearing was finally held on April 12, 2010, during which Fernandez appeared with him to defend herself against allegations of "wrongdoing."

As a result of that hearing, Nicholas said, a decision was made to terminate his client's employment contract.

He said King, Younis, Orsini, and Rabauliman, as the board's majority members, voted for the termination of the contract.

"NMC, through the actions of King, Younis, Orsini, and Rabauliman…unlawfully terminated [Fernandez's] employment contract without cause," Nicholas said.

DELAYED

From Page 1

22, 2010 and Tinian lawmakers have been scrambling to find at least $42,000 to pay these nurses immediately after these health personnel formally informed government officials about their problem on Sunday, *Saipan Tribune* learned yesterday.

This comes at a time when 11 nurses and staffers at the Rota Health Center are also still waiting for the full payments of their salaries since the pay period of March 26.

All 22 foreign nurses and auxiliary staff working at both the Tinian and Rota Health Centers are employed by private manpower firm Saipan Employment Agency and Services.

On Saipan, nurses working at the Commonwealth Health Center are directly employed by the government and their payrolls are on time.

The 11 Tinian nurses wrote a June 6 letter to SEAS director Henry Cruz, copies of which were also sent to the Tinian Health Center resident director, the Tinian Department of Labor, the CNMI Department of Labor, and the CNMI Department of Public Health. Cruz did not return call for comment yesterday.

"Our salaries had been delayed before, but this is the first time it's been delayed for up to two pay periods," one of the affected Tinian nurses told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), chairman of the Tinian Legislative Delegation, said the Tinian lawmakers are concerned not only about the affected nurses but also the health care of Tinian patients who may have to fend for themselves should the non-payment of nurses' wages continue.

The four-member Tinian Legislative Delegation passed yesterday a local bill appropriating $42,000 for the nurses' salaries.

"The money that the delegation gave to the nurses' salaries was supposed to go somewhere else, from scholarship funds of students. While the delegation also recognizes the importance of scholarship money, the non-payment of nurses' salaries and the possible effect on safety of patients are pressing issues. It's been a difficult decision but we ask for people's patience," Hofschneider said in a phone interview.

House Local Bill 17-17, introduced by Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian), appropriates a total of $92,000 from local license fees collected from pachinko slot and poker machines on Tinian.

Besides Conner and Hofschneider, two other lawmakers—Sen. Franciso Cruz (R-Tinian) and Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian)—also approved the local bill.

Of the total amount, $42,000 will go toward the nurses' salaries; $20,000 for the monthly subsistence allowance of Tinian patients; $20,000 for the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Fund; and $10,000 for the Little League District Tournament on Tinian this month.

The bill is expected to be transmitted to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial this week for signature.

"We ask the Tinian Health Center and SEAS to resolve this matter as quickly as possible so that the non-payment of nurses' salaries won't drag on," Hofschneider said.

The Tinian Health Center's budget under the continuing resolution is insufficient to pay for SEAS, which in turn pays the nurses.

"I will be communicating with the leadership—the Tinian Mayor's Office, the Tinian Municipal Council, and the Tinian Legislative Delegation—about the next step after the nurses are paid. We do not want the matter to drag on. Again, we ask for people's patience. As chairman of the delegation, I thank the Tinian lawmakers for their immediate action," Hofschneider said.

The senator also thanked Freddy Hofschneider, special assistant to the director of the Tinian Health Center, for bringing the issue to fore.

Freddy Hofschneider said Tinian Health Center resident director Raymond T. Dela Cruz. Jr. has been addressing the issue of nurses' salaries with Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz, Health Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez, the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Finance.

"However, Tinian Health Center is not spared from the serious budgetary shortfall of the CNMI government," he said last night in an e-mail response to media questions.

He said there is a budget allocated for the payment of nurses and medical ancillary staff provided by SEAS "but the continued decline in revenue collection forced the shortfall."

Freddy Hofschneider attended the Tinian Legislative Delegation's session yesterday to address the lawmakers about the nurses' unpaid salaries.

"At the end, leadership was in place. They approved $42,000 for April and May 2010 and I would be working very closely with Rep. Conner in the next few days to address future budgetary requirements. Our hats off to the members of the Tinian Legislative Delegation… for their sensitive response and Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz for giving his full support," he added.

On Rota, local lawmakers also twice had to come to the rescue of the nurses this year because of SEAS's non-payment of these nurses' salaries. Fitial signed two Rota local bills that appropriate funding for the nurses' wages, and other Rota programs.

A CNMI Department of Labor hearing officer permanently barred and disqualified SEAS from hiring, renewing or employing alien workers in the CNMI. But the nurses on Rota and Tinian are waiting for a decision on the appeal filed on the case.

"The future of SEAS or of the nurses and medical ancillary staff provided by SEAS is dependent on the decision by the secretary of Labor on the appeal by SEAS," Freddy Hofschneider added.

4 DRUMS

From Page 1

ing the hazardous chemicals may explode, especially because of the high temperature yesterday.

"We are still monitoring it because two of the caps are bulging out. It's designed only to work within 25 degrees Celsius temperature. It's hot today. It's a concern for us, and we want to get it out of the way," Seman told *Saipan Tribune* at the site.

Besides Seman, Coastal Resources Management's chief enforcement officer Luis Duenas was also at the site, along with Emergency Management Office director Joaquin Omar and Department of Public Safety and Division of Fire officers.

The owner of the drums, Noah Corp., safely removed the drums from the intersection and loaded them into another truck for transport to their facility in Koblerville, under the supervision of DEQ, CRM, DPS, and EMO.

Seman said DEQ will inspect the Koblerville facility to make sure that there were no leaks, and that the drums are properly stored.

DPS spokesperson Eric David, who was also on the scene, said the driver of the truck transporting the drums was cited for traffic violations, including not displaying safety details and for transporting hazardous materials in an unsecured truck.

He identified the driver as Lee, Jae Il.

David said investigators determined the vehicle was speeding when it made a left turn at the intersection, causing the drums to shift to the right side of the bed truck. He said the railing was not strong enough to hold the five drums, causing the railing to give way and the drums fell off from the truck.

The DPS spokesman said no one was hurt when the drums rolled down from the running truck.

DEQ may also cite Noah Corp. for the unsecured transport of the hazardous chemicals.

Non-release of funds may jeopardize 29th Agri Fair

By CLARISSA DAVID
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REPORTER

The 29th Saipan Agricultural Fair may not push through this year unless the $15,000 funding for the project is released.

Saipan Agricultural Fair Association president Isidoro T. Cabrera confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that the group has not started preparations for the agricultural fair this year since they haven't received their budget yet.

He said the Legislature has already appropriated the money for this purpose. "It's a matter of the secretary of Finance giving the green light to release the money," Cabrera said.

A collaboration of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and the Saipan Agricultural Fair Association, the agricultural fair is an annual event that showcases locally grown agricultural produce and aims to promote and support local farmers and ranchers.

DLNR Secretary Ignacio T. Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune* that local farmers are prepared to display their products and animals despite the effects of extreme weather conditions on their crops.

Dela Cruz said the agricultural fair is usually scheduled on Memorial Day weekend or during the last weekend of May.

He added there have been instances when they postponed the agricultural fair to a later date, also due to funding problems.

In 2006, the agricultural fair scheduled for May 27 was moved to Dec. 2.

Cabrera emphasized that it's still possible to hold the fair toward the end of the year—if the $15,000 appropriation is released a few months prior to the event. "If they release the funding in July or August, then we can plan for an [agricultural] fair in December," he said.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

San Vicente Service Interruption

IT&E DSL customers in the San Vicente/Dandan area experienced a service interruption yesterday afternoon as a result of an unplanned cable cut that occurred during an extensive roadwork project.

The interruption occurred when Hawaiian Rock Products inadvertently sliced through the cable that provides DSL services to residents of San Vicente and Dandan. IT&E crews responded to the scene and restored service within two hours of the cable cut.

IT&E, the Marianas communications leader, would like to remind all contractors, homeowners, and building owners of the importance of contacting IT&E prior to any type of digging.

Unlike other telecommunication companies, IT&E does not charge a fee for cable location that occurs during regular business hours, Monday through Friday from 8:00am-4:30pm.

For more information or to request a cable locate, contact **IT&E Customer Care at 682-4ITE (4483)** or see cable locate information in the 2010 CNMI Phone Book, which is available free of charge at IT&E Customer Service on Middle Road.

IT&E
Life in Motion

FOR CDA SEWER PROJECT, AGINGAN OUTFALL SETTLEMENT

CUC ordered to look for cheaper refinancing of $5.8M obligation

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission has directed the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to refinance its $5.8 million obligation for two projects it settled in past years.

Saipan Tribune learned that CUC's Wastewater Division has two debt issues: the $3.659 million obligation to the Commonwealth Development Authority, which carries an interest of 6.25 percent and is to be paid back in fiscal years 2010 through 2013, and $2.150 million owed the contractor in the Agingan Outfall project, which carries an interest rate of 16 percent and is to be paid back in fiscal years 2010 through 2014.

In its testimony last month, CPUC consultant Georgetown Consulting Group said it has reservations on what CUC plans to do with these obligations, saying it is not in the best interest of CUC ratepayers who will pay for these obligations in the end.

Georgetown disclosed that the "amortization period of four and five years for the two obligations is much shorter than the underlying life of the two projects, which would be 20 or 30 years."

Generally, it said, there is an attempt to match the rate recovery requirement to the generations of customers that benefit from the project.

The consultant also described the 16 percent interest rate for the Agingan project as "excessive." Instead, it recommended a revenue requirement based on the principal value of the obligations—a 20-year term for the debt and an interest rate of 6 percent.

The Agingan sewage outfall involves a long pipe, drilled through Saipan's southern reef. It pumps treated sewage down into the 2,000-foot-deep Saipan-Tinian channel over 100 feet down and into a current that disperses it into the deeps of the Philippine Sea.

The project commenced in December 2008 and incurred cost-overruns. To avoid costly and long litigations because of the change orders, CUC offered a settlement and requires the formal approval of the commission.

The $3.66 million CDA sewer project settlement, meantime, is a sewer collection project that runs from the airport to the Agingan wastewater treatment plant. This was financed through CDA.

CUC assistant executive director Abe Utu Malae yesterday confirmed that the CPUC is ordering CUC to look for cheaper ways to refinance these two obligations.

"Of course, as long as CUC is nearly insolvent as reflected in our struggle to pay for diesel fuel, then we will have trouble refinancing. Furthermore, CUC's ability to follow the orders from CPUC and EPA effectively is contingent upon CUC being solvent," he said.

NEW FACES

Three individuals recently joined the Editorial Department of the *Saipan Tribune*

WALTER SUTHERLAND

Walter Sutherland is the newest addition to the *Saipan Tribune*'s Sports Section. Born and raised in southern Indiana, Walter has been to Saipan for vacations about two or three times before deciding to move here to spend more time with his mom's side of the family. With a degree in marketing from the University of Southern Indiana, Walter was initially assigned to cover community events but was later moved to the Sports Section where his skill as a former baseball player could shine. Walter covers baseball, mixed martial arts, volleyball, some basketball, and triathlon.

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Fax: 235-3740

CLARISSA DAVID

Clarissa David joins *Saipan Tribune*'s Local News Section and will be covering community events and advertising features. She has contributed articles for *Saipan Tribune* and other publications on island before deciding on a full-time career in newswriting. Clarissa also used to write for her high school newspaper and college organization newsletter and was into blogging after college. Clarissa graduated from the University of the Philippines with a bachelor's degree in Public Administration.

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DENCIO MANGLONA

Dencio Manglona is *Saipan Tribune*'s summer intern and will be learning the ropes of journalism from this paper's veteran reporters. He is an incoming sophomore at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and is planning to major in either Communication Studies or Political Science. A Marianas Baptist Academy alumnus, Dencio became interested in journalism after taking up courses in news reporting, realizing the significant role that the media plays in disseminating valuable information to the public.

5 rescued from stranded boat near Goat Island

A joint CNMI and U.S. Coast Guard's search operation on Monday led to the rescue of five persons who were stranded for one day aboard a vessel some 25 miles west of Goat Island.

Those rescued were identified as the captain, Alfonso Merano, Kishincher Lasto, Jim K. Manalo, Jim Nemwes, and Amante Nelves.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Eric David said all five were found in good shape.

Captain Merano was cited for not possessing the boat's registration.

The report did not mention the reason why the boat was stranded.

David said investigation showed that on Sunday at 9:48pm, the Boating Safety Division received a call from a Manny Cisnero, who reported a distressed vessel about 10 miles southwest of Goat Island.

Cisnero disclosed that he and some friends departed Saipan on Sunday at 11am on another boat to check on the victims' vessel.

Cisnero said they failed to locate the boat, prompting him to call Boating Safety.

David said at 3am on Monday, a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter radioed Saipan Boating Safety that they have spotted the missing boat 25 miles west of Goat Island.

David said Tinian Boating Safety officers responded to the area, but failed to find the boat and were forced to turn back as they were running out of fuel.

At 7am on Monday, Saipan Boating Safety officers launched the rescue boat Zodiak III.

At 10:55am, Saipan Boating Safety officers arrived alongside the missing vessel 44 miles west of Saipan.

The officers towed the boat to Smiling Cove Marina, where the vessel was inspected for safety equipment. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Internet service to San Vicente, Dandan briefly disrupted

IT&E's DSL customers in the San Vicente and Dandan area lost their Internet connection yesterday afternoon due to an unplanned cable cut that occurred during an extensive roadwork project.

The interruption occurred when Hawaiian Rock Products inadvertently sliced through the cable that provides DSL services to residents of San Vicente and Dandan. IT&E crews responded to the scene and restored service within two hours of the cable cut.

At approximately 11am yesterday morning, a 400 pair cable cut occurred between LN-3/32 and 33 as a result of an HRP scraping/clearing activity at STA.7+50. The 400-pair jelly-filled cable that was cut carries 12 - T1 traffic to San Vicente mini-remote to service both DMS (POTS) and DSLAMS (DSL).

This cable also serves as a tie cable between San Vicente mini-remote and San Vicente Access Node in providing DSL services to residents of San Vicente and Dandan area. Immediately following the incident, IT&E service crews worked with HRP to assist in opening a splicing pit to restore services to the affected customers.

With the assistance of HRP, the splicing pit was ready within 30 minutes and restoration began. T1 circuits were up and running for both DMS and DSLAMS (12 circuits) less than two hours later and all affected services were restored at 1:45pm.

IT&E is reminding all contractors, homeowners, and building owners of the importance of contacting IT&E before any type of digging.

According to Velma Palacios, IT&E Plant Technical Service manager, the CNMI has been experiencing a large number of unnecessary cable cuts to the fiber lines that connect the islands to the world. Oftentimes these cable cuts result in costly damage or service interruptions.

When a cut to the cable occurs, offenders are charged per Public Law 9-4, the Commonwealth Utility Damage Prevention Act of 1994. Palacios said that repairs carry a hefty price tag and deprive customers of their services.

"IT&E cables are not the only underground utilities [water, power, and sewer], and those services might also be jeopardized if they are unintentionally cut," said Palacios. ***(IT&E)***

Taxi driver missing after responding to customer's call

A taxi driver on Saipan was reported missing since Monday night, police said yesterday.

Police spokesman Eric David said that Qi Run Li, 24, of Garapan, was last seen driving his 2004 silver Toyota Corolla with license plate ADJ-932 toward the vicinity of Gold's Gym in China Town.

Qi

David said that yesterday at 5:29am, DPS received a call about a missing person that occurred at the King Disco in Garapan.

David said police learned that Li had received a call on his cell phone on Monday at 7:30pm from a customer that wanted taxi service. The customer asked to be dropped at Gold's Gym.

Li proceeded to Gold's Gym, but he was never seen again, police said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Tinian Dynasty assures continued operation despite salary delays

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Employees of the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino claim that they have not been receiving their paychecks on time for many months now but general manager Tom Liu belied this, saying the salaries are only behind by a single pay period.

"We do the best we can like any other businesses. But definitely, our employees' salary is not behind by four months… maybe just one pay period," Liu said yesterday.

He said the delay was "unavoidable" but not deliberate.

Liu refused to disclose, however, as to when their employees got their last paycheck or the personnel cost Tinian Dynasty incurs in a pay period or a month.

Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino is the lone casino operating on Tinian since 1999.

Despite the declining business climate in the Commonwealth, Liu said they have managed to keep enough number of workers to sustain their 24-hour operation.

He said the hotel has over 500 staffers at present and has not downsized. In fact, he said, the hotel needs even more personnel. He also claimed that despite the "short delay" in salaries, the company still provides overtime pay for its employees.

Liu said the departure of some employees is the result of resignations and retirement from service.

Although the company has the choice to let go of some personnel because of economic difficulties, Liu said the management has opted not to do so.

"That's not what we wanted to do [to our people] and we opted not to do it," he said, as he urged for more understanding from their employees and Tinian residents.

He also discounted the possibility of shutting down the business or any pending takeover by a new management.

"I have no information [on any buyout proposal]…and we're business as usual," he said.

Liu assured that Tinian Dynasty will continue operating as long as business keeps coming to Tinian.

"We survived many difficult situations and we found ways to survive…Business is low but it doesn't mean we give up or surrender. We're fighting very hard," he said.

Positive trend

Liu sees a positive trend in the next few months when China Southern Air resumes its Guangzhou charter flights starting June 28. The airline will use an A-330 airplane, which has a maximum seat capacity of 260.

On July 8, Air China will also fly twice weekly from Beijing, using B-777 with a 320 seat-capacity.

With the summer holiday, Liu is optimistic that more tourists from China, Japan, and Korea will also fly to Tinian.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW10-IFB-011
REMOVAL OF RAISED MEDIAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Proposed Removal of Raised Median, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available on or after June 9, 2010 at DPW Technical Services Division 1353 Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars **($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project, The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2010. Preference is available to US Citizen as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118. Prospective bidders claiming for US Citizen preference are required to submit P&S Form 100 (Revised 12/20/07) with their sealed bids.

A Pre-bid Conference is scheduled for June 28, 2010, 9:00 a.m. local time at the project site located at Tanapag in front of I-Mart Store.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that the full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall ill submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who have obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgement of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/38 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW10-IFB-011"** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time July 1, 2010, Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, July 1, 2010, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 1, 2010, and must be received no later than July 12, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, July 15, 2010. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on July 6, 2010.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **A surety company shall hold the Certificate of Authority (COA) from the U.S. Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General and must accompany the bid.** Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with NMIAC §70-30.3-301 of the Procurement Regulations. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Department of Treasury as an acceptable surety and must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI. In addition, the contractor will be required to deliver a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments or other bond obligations) exceeded the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is Thirty **(30)** Working days upon issuance of an official written Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars **($100.00)** per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion a date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid protocol that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/S/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SPRINGLEAF	004E	5/29 Sat	5/27 Thu	5/27 Thu	5/25 Tue	5/22 Sat	6/4 Fri	5/31 Mon	5/30 Sun	5/23 Sun	5/23 Sun	5/31 Mon	6/4 Fri	6/6 Sun	6/8 Tue
MELL SILOSO	005E	6/5 Sat	6/3 Thu	6/3 Thu	6/1 Tue	5/29 Sat	6/11 Fri	6/7 Mon	6/6 Sun	5/30 Sun	5/30 Sun	6/7 Mon	6/11 Fri	6/13 Sun	6/15 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	039E	6/12 Sat	6/10 Thu	6/10 Thu	6/8 Tue	6/5 Sat	6/18 Fri	6/14 Mon	6/13 Sun	6/6 Sun	6/6 Sun	6/14 Mon	6/18 Fri	6/20 Sun	6/22 Tue
MELL SPRINGLEAF	005E	6/19 Sat	6/17 Thu	6/17 Thu	6/15 Tue	6/12 Sat	6/25 Fri	6/21 Mon	6/20 Sun	6/13 Sun	6/13 Sun	6/21 Mon	6/25 Fri	6/27 Sun	6/29 Tue
MELL SILOSO	006E	6/26 Sat	6/24 Thu	6/24 Thu	6/22 Tue	6/19 Sat	7/2 Fri	6/28 Mon	6/27 Sun	6/20 Sun	6/20 Sun	6/28 Mon	7/2 Fri	7/4 Sun	7/6 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	040E	7/3 Sat	7/1 Thu	7/1 Thu	6/29 Tue	6/26 Sat	7/9 Fri	7/5 Mon	7/4 Sun	6/27 Sun	6/27 Sun	7/5 Mon	7/9 Fri	7/11 Sun	7/13 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SPRINGLEAF	004E	6/12 Sat	6/13 Sun	6/13 Sun	6/15 Tue	6/16 Wed	6/18 Fri	6/20 Sun	SKIP	6/25 Fri	6/26 Sat	7/1 Thu	7/20 Tue	7/4 Sun	6/30 Wed
MELL SILOSO	005E	6/19 Sat	6/20 Sun	6/20 Sun	SKIP	6/23 Wed	6/25 Fri	6/27 Sun	SKIP	7/2 Fri	7/3 Sat	7/8 Thu	7/27 Tue	7/11 Sun	7/7 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	039E	6/26 Sat	6/27 Sun	6/27 Sun	6/29 Tue	6/30 Wed	7/2 Fri	7/4 Sun	SKIP	7/9 Fri	7/10 Sat	7/15 Thu	8/3 Tue	7/18 Sun	7/14 Wed
MELL SPRINGLEAF	005E	7/3 Sat	7/4 Sun	7/4 Sun	SKIP	7/7 Wed	7/9 Fri	7/11 Sun	SKIP	7/16 Fri	7/17 Sat	7/22 Thu	8/10 Tue	7/25 Sun	7/21 Wed
MELL SILOSO	006E	7/10 Sat	7/11 Sun	7/11 Sun	7/13 Tue	7/14 Wed	7/16 Fri	7/18 Sun	SKIP	7/23 Fri	7/24 Sat	7/29 Thu	8/17 Tue	8/1 Sun	7/28 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	040E	7/17 Sat	7/18 Sun	7/18 Sun	SKIP	7/21 Wed	7/23 Fri	7/25 Sun	SKIP	7/30 Fri	7/31 Sat	8/5 Thu	8/24 Tue	8/8 Sun	8/4 Wed

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CTSI Logistics
Moving the world

Eucon promotes 26 grade school students

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Eucon International School promoted 26 students during commencement exercises held Friday. Diplomas and certificates of completion were conferred on eight high school graduates and 10 junior high school students. The school also promoted eight sixth graders and three students were awarded certificates.

The event also served as the annual awards ceremony for outstanding enrollees from first to 12th grade.

Eucon traditionally hands out three annual awards: the prestigious President Award, the Principal Award, and the Dean's Award.

The President Award is given to students who display high academic performance and exemplary attitude. Seven students were given this award this year: Caleb Joshua Yan for first grade; James Matthew Reyes for second grade; Gun Lee for third grade; William Wallon Young for fourth grade; Ha Young "Joseph" Seo for fifth grade; Ha Won "Samuel" Seo for six grade; and Kun "Justin" You for 12th grade.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The graduating class of the Eucon International School during their commencement exercises Friday night at the school's auditorium.

The Principal Awards, given to students who display significant improvements, were presented to first grader Chisa Kobayashi; second grader Juancho Siasoyco; third grader David Mafnas; fourth grader Seong Jun "Luke" Park; fifth grader Bo Ning "Bob" Ji; seventh grader Zhuang Wei Wu; eight grader Zi Qiang "Ballen" Song; 10th grader Yu Duan; 11th grader Yu Xian Zeng; and 12th grader Rui "Peter" Ma.

Recipients of the Dean's Award included Jin Seok "James" Park, Ao Feng "Louis" Zheng, Hia Yi "Linda" Zhou, Theresa Zheng, Juliana Patricia Perez, Hoi Lun Yu, Li Mei Feng, John Paul Nopia, Jan Azalia Cabanes, Jae Hee Lee, Hu Lan Zhu, and Hui Xu.

The Dean's Award is for students who gain the highest academic stature.

Friday's event was keynoted by the governor's senior policy adviser, Dr. John Joyner.

Last month, the school also conferred college diplomas on five students during its 4th commencement rites.

Saipan Tribune also learned that Eucon honors its students' achievements every six weeks to continue to encourage and aid them toward their goals.

Former employee sues hotel for termination

By DENCIO MANGLONA
STUDENT INTERN

A former employee of the Palms Resort Saipan has sued the hotel and its owner, Micronesian Resort Inc., for alleged discriminatory employment practices after they fired her on Jan. 6, 2009.

Jane Quitugua filed the complaint on May 27 with the Superior Court, accusing Palms Resort of "terminating…[her] employment in an unlawful, discriminatory manner on a pretext of implementing organizational and staffing changes."

Quitugua's lawyer, Stephen C. Woodruff, said his client was on duty when she was instructed to go to the hotel's personnel office where she was handed a letter stating, "Effective immediately, you are required to leave the premises," and "you will not be allowed to return to your workstation."

The complaint stated that Quitugua was removed without advance notice, warning, or explanation.

Woodruff was unavailable for comment as he is currently off island and will be returning on June 16.

Palms Resort asserted that Quitugua's termination was simply necessitated by business restructuring and that the company was "heading in a new direction with staff and management of the hotel" and "to allow for some changes in the Front Office department."

Assistant general manager Ray Dela Cruz, who was reportedly present during Quitugua's firing, has yet to return *Saipan Tribune*'s call as of press time yesterday. Michelle Guerrero, the Human Resources director when Quitigua was fired, and Mustafa Isa, at the time the hotel's general manager, are no longer with Palms Resort.

Quitugua began working for Palms Resort as a Front Office supervisor in February 1998 and was later promoted to senior assistant Front Office manager in 2007. She held on to that position until her termination in January last year.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CPA-RFP-004-10

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting SEALED PROPOSALS for **PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) BRAND NEW DESKTOP COMPUTER, ONE (1) 55" HDTV MONITOR AND ONE (1) PORTABLE COMPUTER CART** to the following airports:

- Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI
- Amata Kabua International Airport, Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands
- Chuuk International Airport, Chuuk, FSM
- Kosrae International Airport, Kosrae. FSM
- Pohnpei International Airport, Pohnpei, FSM
- Yap International Airport, Yap, FSM
- Babelthuap Koror International Airport, Republic of Palau

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: ***"Proposal for the Procurement and Delivery of One (1) Desktop Computer, One (1) 55" HDTV Monitor and One (1) Portable Computer Cart".*** The proposal must be submitted on or before **4:30 p.m., Monday, JUNE 14, 2010,** to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

The procurement consists of the procurement and delivery of the above-subject equipment to each respective island's Airport Authority, all in accordance with the specifications. The specifications for the computers, the monitors and the carts can be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the arrival building at the Saipan International Airport. The specifications for the computer are mandated by the Federal Aviation Adminsitration so there will be absolutely no substitution of components for desktop computer system.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes and shipping and handling costs that will be charged to the company awarded the procurement, including excise tax. CPA will not consider unjustifiable cost escalations due to unforeseen circumstances once contract is executed.

The contract period for delivery of all equipment to each respective island shall be **THIRTY (30) CALENDAR DAYS** from issuance of purchase order.

Inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com no later than June 7, 2010.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Acting Executive Director

June 1, 2010
Date

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission/Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold its Regular meeting Friday, June 11, 2010 at 10:30 a.m. at the NMI Retirement Fund Conference Room, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Adoption of Minutes of Meetings
1. May 25, 2010
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. REPORTS
A. Report of the Chairman
1. ROC No. 10-009
B. Report of the Administrator / Deputy Administrator
1. ROA No. 10-009
2. Accounting Report
a) NMI Retirement Fund b) GHLITF c) WCC
3. Drawdown Requests
4. Other Administrative Status / Updates
a) Policies, Programs, and/or Legislative
C. Reports of the Committees
1. Operations, Personnel & Review Committee
2. Finance & Investment Committee
3. Special Committee
D. Report of the Investment Director (Deputy Administrator)
1. Status of Investments
2. Report of the Housing Loan Program
E. Report of the Internal Auditor
IV. LEGAL MATTERS
A. Reports of the Legal Counsels and Administrative Hearing Officer
1. Report of the Board Counsel
a) Lawsuit
i) Report of the Post Judgment Negotiation Panel
b) Other Legal Matters
2. Report of the In-House Counsel
a) Update on Administrative Appeals
3. Report of the Hearing Officer
V. OLD BUSINESS
A. MHL Program (Reopen Status)
B. RFP 10-002 Investment Consultant
C. WCC Case No. SPN-2000-558
D. MHL - Bank Pacific
E. Civil Action No. 09-0410
VI. NEW BUSINESS
A. Audit Report FY2009 B. FY2011 Budget C. Public Forum
VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VIII. MISCELLANEOUS / OTHER MATTERS
A. Announcements B. Next Meeting C. Adjournment

/s/ SIXTO K. IGISOMAR
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

JUNE 9, 1999

BOS: Lawsuits hinder closure of Hillblom estate probate case

The Hillblom Estate probate case could finally come to close within a few months, according to Tom Aldan, chairman of the Bank of Saipan. Closure of this probate is however being impeded and complicated by issues and uncertainties raised by threats of lawsuits and lawsuits against the bank. These threats and lawsuits are based on actions taken by the Bank as executor pursuant to a court order. Though the lawsuits are baseless, the issues and confusion raised might likely hinder the early closure of the probate case. According to bank director Ben Fitial, member of the Estate Oversight Committee for BOS, "these baseless accusations by the attorneys are really actions against the Court."

PSS misses federal grant

The Public School System missed to secure the 21st Century Grant which funding will be used to expand the Lina'la-Malawash Academy and establish community centers on Tinian and Rota. Considered as a long-shot grant, PSS was one of the over 2,000 applicants and only 176 proposals were selected based on its budget for this year. Over 400 panel members were gathered by the US Department of Education to review the proposals submitted. "It's unfortunate but it just shows that PSS is seeking funds from whatever, even if it's a long shot one," said fiscal and budget officer William Matson. The PSS was hoping to avail a minimum of $35,000 to a maximum of over $300,000 in federal funding from the 21st Century grant in order to augment its limited resources for the coming school year.

JUNE 9, 2000

PSS makes available technology funds

In efforts to keep up with global trends in advanced technology, the Public School System is striving to upgrade schools through technology literacy funds targeted to increase student achievement and performance. This summer, PSS is still waiting to award up to 79 projects to qualified school applicants. Project funds range from $5,000 to $15,000, according to Federal Programs Coordinator Bill Matson. The federal assistance funds is prioritized for schools aiming to gear up for E-rate (education rate) or professional development related to education programs using the computers and the Internet. Mr. Matson said the supplemental funds is also intended to acquire equipment that is not included in the E-rate discount package.

'Ice': a worsening problem in the CNMI

The proliferation of illegal substance like methamphetamine hydrochloride, popularly known on streets as "ice", is fast becoming a major threat to the Northern Marianas, according to an anti-prohibited drug advocate who recently completed a six-day presentation in Palau and the Federates States of Micronesia. Narcotics investigator Lt. Ismael Aguon disclosed the wide-spread sale of illegal substances like "ice" on the islands has worsened due to the reported increasing number of sources. Prohibited drugs like "ice" were once popularly routed directly or indirectly from the Philippines only but has now been imported from other countries like the mainland China and Taiwan, said Lt. Aguon, who has been a drug awareness presenter for close to 10 years now.

JUNE 9, 2003

CUC asked to tighten security

Federal authorities recently asked the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to tighten security around its facilities, particularly its fuel storage area, amid reports of renewed security threats against the U.S. In a report to the CUC board, CUC executive director Lorraine A. Babauta said her office has been in constant communication with the U.S. Coast Guard on coastal and electrical generation security issues. She said the USCG has required installation of adequate physical security around the CUC 104-fuel storage tank in Lower Base. "We're given a 60-day timeline. We're within schedule," said Babauta. She said the Rota CUC power generation facility needs to be secured within 120 days.

Quarrying at Kanat Tabla site OK'd

The Coastal Resources Management Office has temporarily approved the Saipan Mayor's Office request to immediately quarry the Kanat Tabla site. CRMO administrator Joaquin D. Salas notified Saipan Mayor Juan Borja Tudela about this in a letter dated June 3. "This letter shall serve as an approval for temporary authorization to quarry for a duration of two months commencing from the date of this letter," Salas said. The temporary approval is subject to certain conditions, including the confinement of quarry activities within the Kanat Tabla site only.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS-IFB-10-060

"A/C REPLACEMENT AND UPGRADE FOR DANDAN ELEMENTARY, SAN VICENTE ELEMENTARY, KAGMAN ELEMENTARY, CHACHA JR. HIGH AND KAGMAN HIGH SCHOOL"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for the **A/C Replacement and Upgrade for Dandan Elementary, San Vicente Elementary, Kagman Elementary, Chacha Jr. High, and Kagman High School** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The scope of work and project package are available beginning on June 2, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee of $47.25.

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on June 23, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at the PSS Conference Room. 2nd floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at lizb@emchen.com no later than June 29, 2010, 4:30 p.m.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-060 and submitted with one original and three (3) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. no later than 9:00 a.m, local time, July 6, 2010. If no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be publicly opened at 9:00 a.m. local time July 8, 2010 in the 2nd floor Conference Room, NMI Retirement Fund Building.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Procurement Officer no later than 9:00 a.m., local time on July 6, 2010 and may be transmitted via fax to (670) 664-3791 or e-mail to robert.florian@cnmipss.org. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 6, 2010 and must be received no later than July 15, 2010 in which case all bids will be opened at 9:00 a.m., July 20, 2010.

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) with "Buy America" Provisions.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
CUC-RFP-10-036

IMPLEMENTATION OF WORKPLANS AT CUC POWER PLANT NOS. 1 & 2

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced environmental firms for the Implementation of workplans at CUC Power Plant Nos. 1 & 2, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The work includes installation of equipment, data collection and development and implementation of clean up measures. Deliverables also include submission of periodic and appropriate sampling and assessment reports, proposed cleanup action /plan and performance report. A final report will also be required that shows the workplan implementation. All the work will be done as a part of the US EPA Stipulated order No. 2 response action and is subject to their approval. This project will be funded through the grant awarded by the US Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

The Scope-of-Work will be e-mailed upon request, to all interested Offerors, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays, **until June 17, 2010.**

One (1) original and Six (7) copies must be submitted in a seal envelope marked **"CUC-RFP- 10-036 Implementation of Work plans at CUC Power Plant Nos. 1 & 2"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Room No.4, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan, P.O.Box 501220, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **June 22, 2010 at 10:00 AM, (CHST) local time.** A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Manuel B. Sablan, Procurement & Supply Manager at email msablan@cucgov.net or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Late submissions will not be considered.

A Pre-proposal Conference followed by a Site Visit will be held on **June 14, 2010 at 9:30 AM (CHST) local time** at the Saipan Lower Base CUC Power Plant No. 1 Administration Bldg.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (CHST) local time on **June 18, 2010** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Manager, Procurement and Supply Manager via email msablan@cucgov.net; Technical Manager for Oil, Mr. Will Sword via email sword.william@gmail.com and Mr. Venugopal Prabhakara, Managing Engineer, Power generation, via email venu@cucgov.net. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective Offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. Contract/s will be awarded to the most responsive proposers, as adjudged by the Source Selection Committee (SSC). CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Assistant Executive Director for Operation

/s/ ANTONIO S. MUNA
Executive Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS-IFB-10-061

"A/C REPLACEMENT AND UPGRADE FOR GTC, TANAPAG ELEMENTARY, GARAPAN ELEMENTARY, OLEAI ELEMENTARY AND MARIANAS HIGH SCHOOL"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for the **A/C Replacement and Upgrade for GTC, Tanapag Elementary, Garapan Elementary, Oleai Elementary and Marianas High School** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The scope of work and project package are available beginning on June 2, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee of $47.45.

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on June 23, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at the PSS Conference Room. 2nd floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at lizb@emchen.com no later than June 29, 2010, 4:30 p.m.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-061 and submitted with one original and three (3) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. no later than 9:30 a.m, local time, July 6, 2010. If no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be publicly opened at 9:30 a.m. local time July 8, 2010 in the 2nd floor Conference Room, NMI Retirement Fund Building.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Procurement Officer no later than 9:30 a.m., local time on July 6, 2010 and may be transmitted via fax to (670) 664-3791 or e-mail to robert.florian@cnmipss.org. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 6, 2010 and must be received no later than July 15, 2010 in which case all bids will be opened at 9:30 a.m., July 20, 2010.

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) with "Buy America" Provisions.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS-IFB-10-062

"A/C REPLACEMENT AND UPGRADE FOR WSR ELEMENTARY, HOPWOOD JR. HIGH, SAN ANTONIO ELEMENTARY, KOBLERVILLE ELEMENTARY AND SAIPAN SOUTHERN HIGH SCHOOL"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for the **A/C Replacement and Upgrade for WSR Elementary, Hopwood Jr. High, San Antonio Elementary, Koblerville Elementary and Saipan Southern High School** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The scope of work and project package are available beginning on June 2, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee of $47.15.

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on June 23, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at the PSS Conference Room. 2nd floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at lizb@emchen.com no later than June 29, 2010, 4:30 p.m.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-062 and submitted with one original and three (3) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. no later than 10:00 a.m, local time, July 6, 2010. If no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be publicly opened at 10:00 a.m. local time July 8, 2010 in the 2nd floor Conference Room, NMI Retirement Fund Building.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Procurement Officer no later than 10:00 a.m., local time on July 6, 2010 and may be transmitted via fax to (670) 664-3791 or e-mail to robert.florian@cnmipss.org. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 6, 2010 and must be received no later than July 15, 2010 in which case all bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m., July 20, 2010.

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/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

A place where Muslims love America

By FRIDA GHITIS
THE MIAMI HERALD

PRISTINA, Kosovo—The people of Kosovo have something blunt and something subtle to tell the world. Explore the cities and the countryside, and you will see American flags waving from storefronts, gas stations and ordinary homes. Inch your way onto Bill Clinton Boulevard, one of the capital's busiest roads, and a 25-foot picture of the former president hanging from a massive building smiles at you across a permanent traffic jam.

Below it, a statue of Clinton, the man who sent American forces to defend Kosovar Albanians more than 10 years ago greets Pristina. "I love America," gushes Valentina Sejdiu, a 28-year-old veterinary student, pondering her young country's obsession with the United States. "All my friends love America!" That message rises unmistakably throughout this scarred patch of the Balkans.

Surveys show few nations love America more than Kosovo. It seems perfectly natural that the majority of Kosovars feel overflowing affection for the country that turned the tide of history in their favor; except for one thing: More than 90 percent of Kosovars are Muslims.

What the world needs now is an invigorating shattering of hardened stereotypes, and Kosovo's hidden message smashes away.

Kosovo can prove disorienting to Westerners who bought into the belief that all Muslims hate the West and to Muslims who accept the fallacy that the United States is at war with Muslims.

The radical ideologues trying to homogenize thinking in Muslim countries have found little acceptance among Kosovo's people. And it's not for lack of trying. A few bearded radicals mix in with the resolutely moderate population. Just a few days ago in the southern city of Prizren, 120 police officers launched a massive operation, arresting a group they described as extremists, followers of the Saudi Wahabbi brand of Islam.

Police confiscated machine guns, ammunition, uniforms and laptops that reportedly contained information on targets for attacks. But religious fanaticism is viscerally rejected by most.

The fledgling country wants to become part of the democratic, pluralistic West. Kosovo, the poorest country in Europe, is doing all it can to eventually join the European Union. One government employee, waxing eloquent about his passion for America, told me Kosovo would, if it could, join the United States rather than the EU. "Kosovo could become the 51st state," he said with a mischievous grin.

He was half-joking, of course, but the fact is that the values of the West are the ones that entice this country toward the future.

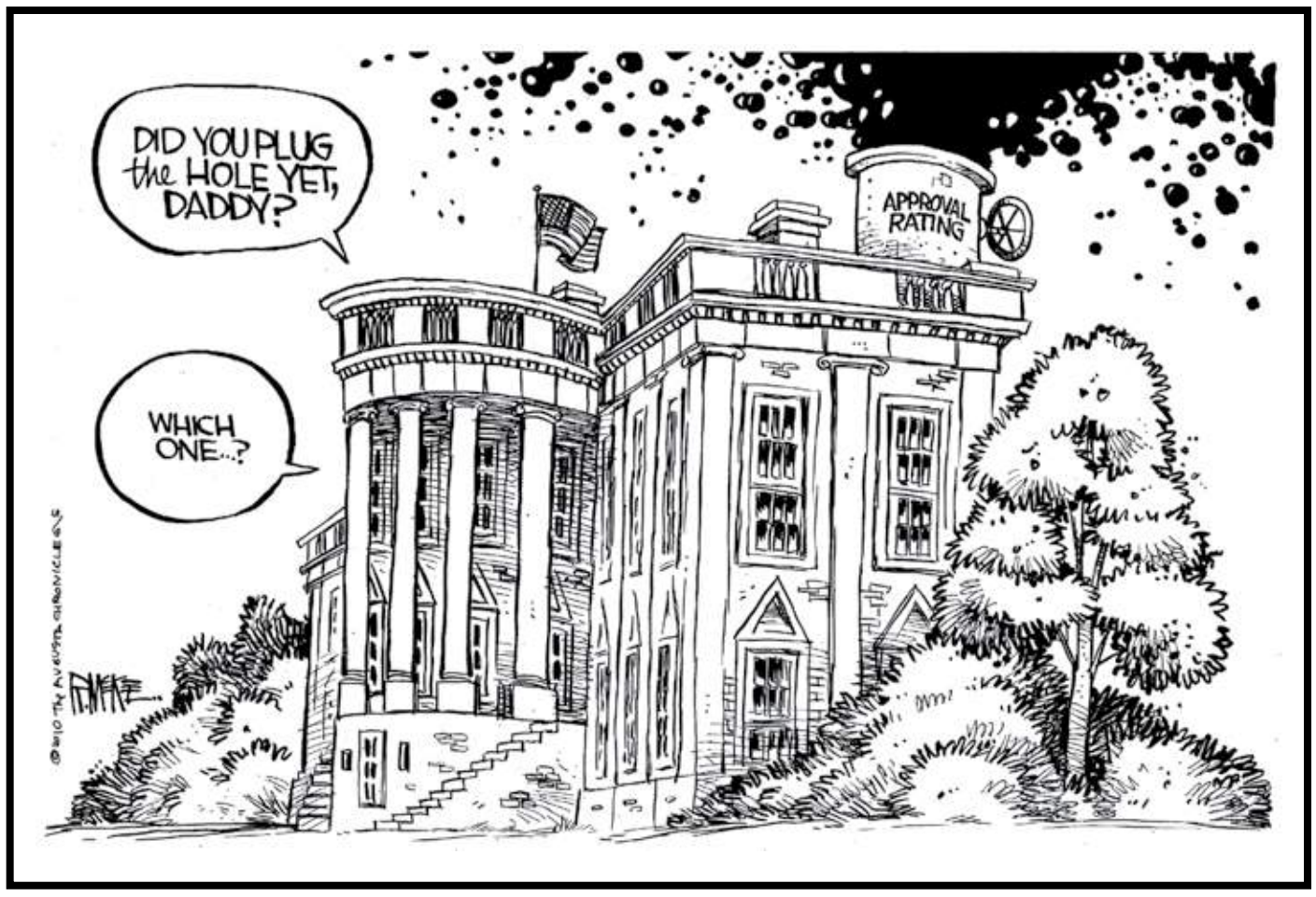
"America is the country of democracy," said Mentor Mustafa, a 25-year-old dental technician. "the country of freedom."

Kosovars have so thoroughly rejected the propaganda that permeates other regions, that Muslims here don't even realize they're supposed to hate Israel. A couple of years ago, Kosovo Prime Minister Hashim Thaci, a former commander of the Kosovo Liberation Army, told a reporter, "I love Israel. It's a wonderful country!"

Views on Israel range from completely neutral to strongly positive. Ennis Mehmetti, a storekeeper, told me, "I don't really know Israel." But Petrit Cervdiku, a student, took off his fashionable sunglasses to make sure his point came across. "I hate the Muslims that hate Israel!" Then he volunteered a screed about the "waste of lives" that are suicide bombings aiming to kill Jews and Americans.

Most Kosovars wear their religion lightly. Their sense of identity flows from nationality, from ethnicity. Religion does not deter-

See A PLACE on Page 13



A graduation to remember

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Delrosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's *Opinion Section.*

It boggles the mind what keynote speakers would be telling the graduating Class of 2010 as they go through pomp and circumstance this month. Indeed, the occasion deserves a celebration of accomplishments. Our students have labored through it all to reach their goals. But is there hope for them after the dust of this joyous occasion settles down?

Perhaps we can agree that there's the Calm Sea of Hope where scholars could take advantage of opportunities by matriculating into secondary institutions between here and colleges and universities across the country. Your future is in the sacrificial acquisition of lifetime skills and opportunities for continuing education in your area of specialty after undergraduate work.

The door is wide open for those who wish to move forward. Your parents and responsible members of the Northern Marianas Community are marching by your side with equal pride. Despite the seeming hopelessness these days, keep your heads up high and march on to conquering your dreams. Together, we can put our minds into carving brighter tomorrows for you and posterity. Congratulations!

■ ■ ■ ■

Stormy Graduation

Some 42 years ago, Hopwood's Class of 1968 marched through pomp and circumstance at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral. The island was totally destroyed by the infamous Super Typhoon Jean two weeks before graduation exercise. The entire island was pitch dark, with water and power completely shut off. We found our skeletal ceremonial platform set behind the main office totaled, ripped, and scattered along the beach.

That the storm pummeled the entire island to trashy debris didn't discourage our teachers and school administrators from preparing the ceremony for the Class of '68. Too, we were the first graduating class who had the privilege to eat at field kitchens installed by the military in school grounds throughout the villages. It was three meals a day for several months until the island was able to rebuild itself.

Yes, that was a period too when you rest at night and hear echoes of hammers pounding at a distance well into the wee hours of the morning. We had to make do with quick showers in the lagoon to conserve what little water was brought to the villages on water buffaloes for household use.

The reconstruction period brought out the resiliency of the old folks picking up the pieces to begin anew. Grandpa reminded siblings that storms are indelible to life in the islands. I suppose the moral of his message is simple: You'd get hit and battered but such is the rhythm of life in a tropical setting. Don't whine; move on!

Life goes on and how refreshing to attend the graduation exercises of my own siblings. Our time and joyful moment came 42 years ago. The new generation is here to take over as they too prepare for some (hopefully) rewarding and
meaningful lives right here at home.

■ ■ ■ ■

Shifting Sands

Strange the quick shifts in the sands of paradise. If my memory serves me right, it was in 1968 that tourism started descending on these isles. I was at the old airport (Koblerville) to watch the first group of visitors from Japan return home. Most were here before the war and came back to revisit the old village (Garapan). All had tears in their eyes as they took quick glimpses of home after a long absence. They boarded tour buses to head for hotels like the Royal Taga, Hafa Adai or Saipan Hotel.

Initially, tourism was supposed to have been developed into a cooperative. It's a good plan to assimilate locals into investing in the first biggest industry. However, this policy was dropped around 1977 primarily to accelerate the growth of the private sector. It may be a good idea, though it led to the complete alienation of the indigenous people in an industry that fits their tropical island setting.

Every other economic venture was rushed to make up for the impending revenue loss upon relocation of the TT Government from Saipan to Pohnpei. It was at this point when I first heard of the garment industry. We weren't sure what the beast was all about or its requirements for more water and power. But it was notorious for keeping wages down. We had our share of good times when it was raking in $1.2 billion in annual revenues. It's gone as we sing and sigh: Beyond the Reef.

A nationalist by sentiment, I was guardedly optimistic that things would pan out for the better under the new arrangement with Uncle Sam. I wasn't sure what would be our fate 20-30 years after 1977 though there's no room to contemplate it given that we had seven years of guaranteed funding under the agreement. I watched the curtain rise and drop, the beginning of a new constitutional government here and the closure of the TTG. Was it a good deal and one founded on mutual belief of a lifetime partnership for the better? Or was it more a deal for money in exchange for military land? Experience under what's now a dysfunctional relationship is a tale to the contrary.

The United States had its military land requirements. Ours was money that funded basic infrastructure, i.e., water, power, roads and sewer. Are we anywhere near completing these projects, i.e., updating the sewer system? Now we ponder what else lies ahead in the still quick shifting sands of what used to be paradise. Well, prepare yourself an outline or a T on a piece of paper and ponder through it if only to get a glimpse at the "what might have been." Your guess is as good as any other responsible soul trying to keep his balance on the loose and grainy sands of paradise.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

What do you want? 7 e-mails. 7 ideas.

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT *Creating economic success for the CNMI*

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

In a previous article, I explained something called the Non-Existence Formula, which is a helpful and proven series of steps for any person or organization embarking on a new project, starting in a new job position or beginning any endeavor from a state of "non-existence" (i.e. did not exist before) and desiring to grow it to success. The formula states:

1. Find the lines of communication
2. Make yourself known.
3. Find out what is needed or wanted.
4. Do, produce and/or present it.

So, based on step 3, I recently sent out an e-mail asking my previous customers and list subscribers to respond to the question "What do You Want or Need?"

The essence of business is to find a need and fill it. Therefore, as a potential entrepreneur, every point of communication you have with the world offers you insights into what people are looking for, and presumably what they would pay to have. With that in mind, and with your thinking cap on, here are seven of those responses which might offer some ideas on products or services you might offer. (I've kept the respondents' full names anonymous.)

1. What R. Wants: ***"The papers are full of disaster stories—car crashes, domestic violence, war casualties, buses going into ravines, kids killing friends when guns go off unexpectedly, murder in the classroom,*** **ad nauseum.** ***...I want stories that tell me that people DO overcome handicaps, CAN make the system work, DO have ethics, DO care about each other—positive stories that encourage me to go on fighting for whatever (worthy) cause it is I happen to believe in, that show me that there is hope, that there are others out there who are on my side, that one can work despite the system (or within the system), stories that reinforce the belief that man is not all bad (!); stories that are inspirational—not in a religious way, but that inspire one to do better, to continue to hang in there…that motivate, set models…"***

WALT'S THOUGHT: R's full e-mail itself was as inspiring as anything I've read! To me it says the people are indeed tired of the depressing worldview that media has believed sells papers and sells advertising. An e-mail like this should inspire and remind writers, organizers, politicians and entrepreneurs that people crave for more meaningful and inspiring content in their daily lives. What will you do to give it to them?

2. What E. wants: ***"Perhaps you can touch on how we can still survive despite tough economic times for some. Also if you could share your predictions on where the next trends will be, that would be helpful."***

WALT'S THOUGHT: This business owner realizes that a new strategy is necessary for business success. I think this points to an opportunity for "gurus" who can suggest sustainable solutions to the business community's real and perceived economic situation. I would suggest that in crafting a response to E, that you start by questioning the very economic system that we are all engaged in. It's being said more often these days that it is impossible to maintain infinite growth on a planet with finite resources. Capitalism, as it is currently practiced, is unsustainable. What are the alternatives?

Also, whether you are intuitively gifted enough to see the future, or simply positioned with information that others don't have, you can carve out a niche for yourself predicting what the future holds.

3. What K. Wants: ***Have you ever considered doing a paid membership Web site?***

WALT's THOUGHT: One good way to make your business more profitable is to offer a subscription service. Provided you can offer something of value to consumers or business owners on, say, a weekly or monthly basis, you can charge a weekly or monthly subscription fee, which creates, for you, a predictable stream of income each period.

4. What A. Wants: ***"I really liked your Customer Service article!"***

WALT'S THOUGHT: Here on Saipan, it's been over two months since that article appeared [*Saipan Tribune*, March 31, 2010]. However, as late as Monday of this week, a fellow approached me in the supermarket to give his positive feedback. That says to me that the content has struck a chord. That might indicate an opportunity for people who can help business owners improve their customer service. At the very least, it shows that even if a competitor already exists in a potential market, that differentiating yourself by having good customer service could make you more successful—and that applies just about everywhere. Remember, competing on price alone is an unsustainable strategy for business success.

5. What R. (on Saipan) Wants: ***"Hey Walt! I saw my review [that I wrote about your book] on your site! I felt so honored! I hope I could follow you [@whereiswalt] on twitter and Facebook but I'm not so much good with computer... Thank you again!"***

WALT'S THOUGHT: Now, R didn't come right out and say it, but computer training and Internet literacy is something that is always in demand. The challenge, of course, is the financial reward—oftentimes, the people who could be most helped don't have the means to pay for such courses. Perhaps, there might be a federal grant of some sort that could finance the creation of a computer training project here on Saipan, or anywhere there happens to be a demand or need.

6. What K.A. Wants. ***I have read a lot about the CNMI and would love to visit, hopefully within the next year. Maybe I'll be able to vacation there during the winter break. Anyway, I was wondering if you had any advice for me. I think, based on what I've seen online, that I would love to spend a year or two [on] Saipan once I'm finished up here in [country]. I have a bachelor's degree in Business Administration (with a marketing concentration), and have had a variety of jobs over the years...my work experience is all across the board. If I were to try and get a job in Saipan, what type of job would I most likely get, and do you think it would be easy for me to get one?***

WALT'S THOUGHT: Not only does this indicate an opportunity for those who provide information about Saipan, Tinian and Rota, but it also reminds those of us here, that there is always a pool of newcomers with new ideas and new skill sets that offer opportunities for the islands' economy.

(P.S. If anyone wishes to respond to, or get in touch with KA, they can email me at walt@saipanliving.com)

and, finally….

7. What Z Wants: "*All-expense 7-night, 8-day vacation to a spa resort in Tahiti during the best season to take a vacation! [My husband] is invited, of course. J"*

WALT'S THOUGHT: Excuse me? Tahiti? Ahem. Might I suggest you Discover Saipan!!

Again, as an aspiring entrepreneur, one of the secrets to success rests in hearing what is being said as well as not being said. Hidden in these little gems of correspondence are clues as to what people need or want. The key question is: How can you fulfill YOUR purpose by taking YOUR passion, using it to respond to people's desires and create something of value that you can exchange with the world, and thereby give you what YOU want?

■ ■ ■ ■

Note: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that revealed the best things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!

Note: Fans and followers of the books, *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan (saipanfactorygirl.com)* or *Jamaican on Saipan (jamaicanonsaipan.com), or Doing Business on Saipan (saipanliving.com)* may place orders on *those sites, or…yes, Amazon.com!*

■ ■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 16 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. *Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here on Saipan. To learn more, visit www.passionprofit.com and follow Walt on Twitter (waltonsaipan).*

Aging is not for wimps

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section*

The J in the initials JE, JR, JD and JL spells "Jaime," in a bioline. The first is my Dad's who was 94 years old three years ago when he, in the comfort of his metaphor, "joined his creator."

The third is Daniel's, who calls me "father" sans a shade of endearment, a label to designate an absent figure once familiar in his environment before he turned 4. He and his older sister have a neurological syndrome called autism; their brains eschew standard conventions, not malleable to common linguistic aptitude and social relations.

The fourth is that of Liam, Daniel's toddler nephew. Liam's mom, Teresa, is German, Scot, English, and Gael like her mother, plus Indo-Sino-Malay like me. Liam's dad is Irish and that initiates him to the realm of the mongrel Myst!

I was in Dallas in the '60s. My JR initial is often associated with the celebrated billboard, *"Who killed JR?"* Comparison of behavior is also frequently made to *Dallas'* JR Ewing, given our self-confidence trademark, easily taken for arrogance. This August, I am six decades and five years of longevity, a year before the application of SS benefits to my age bracket. That's much later than the 50-ish *man'amko* category followed on island.

The month of May was *Man'amko* Month. We used to take SVES 6th graders to lunch with them at the Center, and get guitar-strumming Frank to belt out *On Top of the World* with us. The ladies and a few ladies' men enjoyed dancing, for aerobic benefits; the extra breathing invigorated the respiratory system, known to induce hormone production. The majority at Gualo Rai tended to be passive, primarily due to physical ailments like diabetes, but also like the rest of us, they wimp their way into aging.

Gandhi at 60 followed the Hindu rite of abstinence, terminating existing commitments; he became loyal to a larger entity than his personal covenants. Tagore once articulated four lifetimes in this Hindu understanding. Divided into life phases of 20 years each, the four lifetimes totaled 80 years of existence when completed.

Hindus talk of four lifetimes: the first, the adventure of *youth* afforded limitless scope of curiosity; the second, *adulthood* procreating and continuing biosocial lineage. Third is *professional* career of service toward community, creating life systems and support structures as lasting legacy. The final age is the *sage,* the elder whose honed wisdom is surrendered to posterity.

Cultures do come up with schemes like the above. In our current consumer society, there is only one age group of consequence—youth! Eight and 9 year olds cannot wait to be teenagers, and grandmas at 50 are known to pull up their Levis to sashay their *dagan* into the wind! Cosmetics and pharmas are geared toward keeping everyone young, or at least looking young. Hair dyes are best sellers and magazines herald the theme "Looking young means looking good." Our whole symbol system celebrates the travails and triumphs of youth, the current crop being labeled "the lost generation."

I hold a five-phased timeline of four scores and half-a-decade, plus one year. That's 86 years total with 17 years for each phase. The year 2031 is my designated terminal year of shelf life! The plus one is a bonus extra year, an icing on the cake!

I launched with the *mysteries of origin,* of Birth and bio-growth, followed by the *adventures of responsiveness,* of Adulthood, the exercise of response-ability. Third, is *covenants of location,* of Homenest, grounding myself in the local, bearing the weight of glocalization. The fourth phase is *commitments of creation,* of Vocation, or the total expenditure of self for the sake of the whole of creation. I still have three years to offer under this phase. It is a sign of society's *man'amko*-taken-for-granted-ness that the over-60-need-not-apply mentality is alive in our job markets.

The final phase is the *celebration of finitude,* of Death and dying. Current paradigms see death as a transition, holding out to a hope of something beyond; I hold death as a terminus, a point of finality of the unique personalities that all are. Announcements and obits use the ancient metaphor of life-after-death to salve grief of endings, denying vulnerability. To celebrate aging as the consciousness of every moment in the here-and-now, I heed Julia Robert's character in the movie *Steel Magnolia* who said: "I would rather have four days of wonderful than a lifetime of nothing." In the absence of affirmations to glorify our finitude, like that of India, society tend to wimp through the aging process.

Wouldn't you like to know how NMC's Sam McPhetres, cyberspace maven Ruth Tighe, *Refalawasch* Lino Olopai, gaming overseer Eliott Sattler, Century honcho Dave Sablan (who ain't century looking), hillside gardener Sapuro Rayphand, retired Bishop Thomas Camacho, commentarian Bill Stewart, harried Uncles Ben and Eloy, and volunteers Deanne Siemer and Howard Willens (and anyone else who cares) chart or design their journey through glorious existence, especially in the sunset of their years? Wimps need not respond.

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°

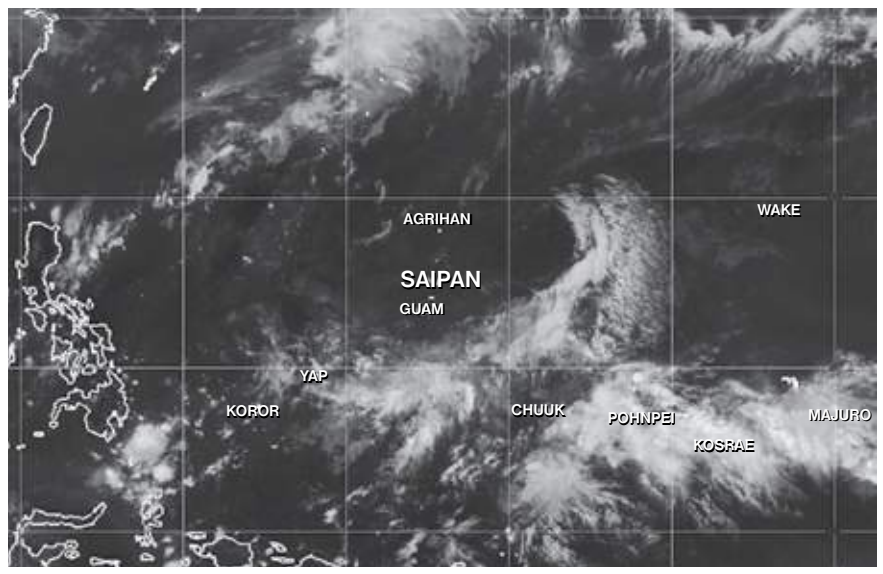
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲88	▼79
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼77
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼76
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼77
Kosrae	Rain	▲87	▼79
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲57	▼49
Beijing	Cloudy	▲87	▼71
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲82	▼79
Honolulu	Showers	▲84	▼75
London	Rain	▲67	▼57
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼59
Manila	Thundershowers	▲89	▼82
Melbourne	Showers	▲52	▼45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼79
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲76	▼56
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲80	▼64
Paris	Rain	▲65	▼61
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼63
Rome	Sunny	▲83	▼67
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲73	▼53
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲60	▼55
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼65
Tokyo	Showers	▲71	▼63
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼63

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Low-level convergence is producing scattered showers well southeast of Okinawa within 75 miles of a line from 21N130E to 25N138E. An upper-level low is centered between the Marianas and Wake Island near 18N151E. This low is producing extensive upper-level cloudiness around its eastern periphery but only isolated showers are present. A surface trough extends from 6N142E to north of Chuuk at 10N152E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring from Yap eastward south of Guam to north of Chuuk within 100 miles either side of a line from Yap to 9N147E to 13N153E and within 25 miles of a line from 4N144E to 7N146E. Strong low-level convergence is producing widespread showers and isolated thunderstorms within 150 miles of a line from 2N152E to 7N156E to 6N165E to 7N170E to 4N173. This includes Pohnpei, Kosrae and Majuro but is just south of Kwajalein.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:08 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:35 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
6:31 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:27 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:48 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:38 AM	3:42 PM
Thursday	3:23 AM	4:38 PM
Friday	4:13 AM	5:38 PM
Saturday	5:09 AM	6:38 PM
Sunday	6:10 AM	7:38 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 27, 2010

DEPARTURES

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	5:55am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	3:35pm	6:15pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:10am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/703	2:20am	11:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/703	2:50am	11:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	12:10am+1	1, 5 via PUS
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05am	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:20am+1	4, 7 via PUS
C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Letters to the Editor

In search of a plan that works

Dear CNMI senators: At the close of World War I, the world met in Versailles, France, to conclude peace. The victors wanted to make Germany pay with a pound of flesh. The Allies forced an agreement that levied bills against their enemies that couldn't be paid. Some realized that you can't cut blood from a turnip and favored a plan for lasting peace. President Wilson wanted a League of Nations to make right what was done wrong and said, "I can predict with absolute certainty that within another generation there will be another world war." The unworkable peace gave rise to hatred, racism, and was a direct cause of World War II.

Your resolution opposes the DOI recommendations concerning status of guest workers in the CNMI, but no one has heard what you do support or heard any solutions to our complicated labor and immigration situation. Resistance to federalization without a workable alternative or solution will not stop the glacier, because the only plan that lasts is a plan that works. To oppose the DOI report, you should prepare to answer a central question: Could the NMI operate without guest workers? The answer is clearly NO. Could Saipan keep the airport open one day without guest workers? The answer is NO, and inbound flights would be diverted to Guam. Could the CNMI keep the hospital or public schools open one day without guest workers? Again, the answer is NO and NO, as ER patients would be without life support and PSS could not feed students breakfast or lunch. Could the CNMI keep the hotels open for one day without guest workers? The answer is NO because they couldn't provide power, food, or a host of other services those tourists expected. The CNMI would be a disaster zone requiring immediate federal aid without workers.

The U.S. has made it abundantly clear that the two-tier system of servitude is over and going forward, the CNMI will be a land of justice and equality for all, something we should take pride in. The old plastic economy that hired cheap labor from the Third World to run our islands while citizens propped our feet up on unproductive government jobs is winding to a close. The long-term effect of that system—leaving citizens unable to take care of our islands and unable to feed ourselves without guest workers—is the real tragedy that requires federal intervention.

One suggestion to ponder may enable the CNMI to grow and offer an opportunity for our children in the private sector and in the small business arena. We could consider recommending three groups of alien workers with a mix of DOI recommendations. Group one includes guest workers who reside in the NMI because they are owed judgments of over $6 million. That group could apply for a permanent resident green card immediately for humanitarian reasons and restitution for non-payment. Group two includes workers who are vital to the CNMI and to their employers. That essential group of sponsored workers could apply for permanent resident green cards at the end of the first transition period in 2014. Group three includes employed workers under the CW transitional workers program, which is set to begin as soon as the regulations are released. I believe that plan may be viable and workable in the Commonwealth.

This case ended when the Democratic Congress passed the federalization law; it was signed by President Bush and President Obama signed the DOI report. The U.S. will not likely act on immigration reform before the November 2010 elections. After the elections, President Obama will push immigration reform that may or may not happen. The President may or may not get elected for a second term. If he is re-elected, he will continue to support immigration reform if it wasn't passed in his first term. If immigration reform doesn't pass, or if he isn't re-elected, I expect him to sign an 11th hour document blanketing every foreign national here with a path to U.S. citizenship. That is what I believe will happen. If you have a brighter plan, concessions to offer for the betterment of our community, or any compromise solutions, I would suggest you speak now, but remember that restricting workers or tying them to a job isn't an option, and the only plan that lasts is a plan that works.

Ron Hodges
Puerto Rico, Saipan

Correction in report about new labor regs

I write to correct the errors in the report in the *Saipan Tribune* about Labor's revised regulations under PL 17-1. This report suggested that there were certain new provisions in the regulations when, in fact, the provisions remain the same as in prior regulations. For example:

Registration. There is nothing new about alien registration in the Commonwealth. Annual registration has been required since the first alien workers came to the Commonwealth in the mid-1980s. The new regulations only shift this responsibility from the old Immigration Division to the Labor Department because the Attorney General has deleted the old immigration regulations under which annual registration was accomplished. The procedural registration provisions remain the same; the office implementing them has changed.

Fees. There is nothing new about Labor fees. If you compare the new fee schedule to the old fee schedule, you will see fees cited in the article have not changed. What has changed is a provision that any employer who pays a federal fee does not have to pay a Commonwealth fee. There is no duplication of fees. Your report did not include that fact. In addition, the moratorium exemption fee has been deleted, as the moratorium is now gone.

Workforce Participation. Your report contains a serious factual error with respect to workforce participation. Your article said: "It [the new regulation] said the number of citizens, U.S. permanent residents or CNMI permanent residents or their immediate relatives shall equal or exceed the number of foreign workers in the private sector workforce unless attainment of this goal is not feasible within the current calendar year after all reasonable efforts have been made by the employer." That is not correct.

The regulations provide that: "In the workforce of any employer, the percentage of citizens, U.S. permanent residents, and CNMI permanent residents and the immediate relatives of citizens, U.S. permanent residents, and CNMI permanent residents ("status-qualified participants") employed shall equal or exceed the percentage of status-qualified participants in the private-sector workforce unless attainment of this goal is not feasible within the current calendar year after all reasonable efforts have been made by the employer."

What this means is that if citizens, U.S. permanent residents, CNMI permanent residents, and their immediate relatives comprise 40 percent of the private-sector workforce, then the benchmark for every private-sector employer is 40 percent. The private-sector workforce is comprised of persons who are employed and persons who are seeking employment. We use the same definitions as the U.S. Department of Labor.

Reporting Requirements. There has been no change in the reporting requirements. The reports required in the new regulations are the same reports as have been required in prior regulations.

Workforce Plan. Only technical changes have been made in the workforce plan requirements to conform to the provisions of PL 17-1. For example, PL 17-1 deleted classifications for jobs, so the references to those classifications in the workforce plan requirements were also deleted. A workforce plan requirement has been in Commonwealth law for a long time.

Jacinta M. Kaipat
Deputy Secretary of Labor

How low can we go?

This is in response to Christopher Attao Concepcion's letter to the editor ("Indigenous control of the CNMI," *Saipan Tribune*, May 28, 2010). For years the CNMI government was warned by the federal government that importing laborers from foreign countries has consequences. The CNMI's elected officials ignored such warnings and some of them benefited from such an arrangement. The CNMI government had been and continues to go against the federal government's recommendations. We had been given the warning that importing workers will have tremendous impact on our society. Ask your past and present elected officials and they will acknowledge that such studies existed for decades. So let us not make any excuses that we did not know what was coming for our society.

Also, many years ago, the CNMI government tried to convince the feds not to grant U.S. citizenship to anyone born of contract worker parents in the CNMI. How low can we go? Contradict the U.S. Constitution? Our federal laws were enacted to protect our society, not to protect self-serving, self-interested individuals. So your assumption of not knowing the consequences is not an excuse.

Segundo Castro
Stockton, California

Where's the truth?

It's Monday evening, and power has been on all weekend. What happened? According to stories in last Thursday's papers, we were due to get total blackouts over the weekend, because CUC did not have enough money to pay for scheduled fuel deliveries.

We were told in great detail when fuel would run out, and how much was needed to pay for the next delivery. All of the news looked grim indeed.

Friday's papers reported that 20 percent of the amount due had been found somewhere, and provided, but that the rest still hung in the balance.

Saturday's paper offered no new information. The weekend came and passed. And not a word in Monday's papers.

What kind of nonsense is this? Who's trying to threaten, blackmail whom? The public is thrown into a panic, I know I certainly was. I depend on power to run my oxygen concentrator, which I need 24/7, and I can imagine lots of other people were too. And for what purpose?

Obviously, the needed money was found somewhere. The vendor agreed to deliver the fuel. CUC is still operating. There aren't even scheduled blackouts being announced. So what was the point?

In the meantime, to make the whole issue look even sillier, the same papers that announced the imminent power outage announced the opening of Liberation Day festivities. How much fuel does that consume? If there really were a fuel shortage, why couldn't that have been postponed for a week, or however long it took to get the bills paid, and power back on?

Even more egregious, the paper also reported that the Rota delegation had just appropriated $402,000 to its gaming commission, when it was reported that Rota only had fuel enough for another week.

The story of the boy who cried "wolf" once too often is legendary. How can we believe that CUC is really short of fuel? That the CNMI is really short of funds to pay vendors? That there really will be blackouts?

Where's the integrity? The accountability? The truth?

Ruth L. Tighe
Tanapag, Saipan

Federal and state laws

Section F of Public Law 17-1 states:

"(f) EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS—The provisions of this section and of the immigration laws, as defined in section 101(a)(17) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17)), shall, on the transition program effective date, supersede and replace all laws, provisions, or programs of the Commonwealth relating to the admission of aliens and the removal of aliens from the Commonwealth."

Only laws "relating to admissions of aliens and the removal of aliens from the Commonwealth" are preempted, nothing else.

In fact, in every state, there are parallel labor provisions of federal law (U.S. Labor Department and Department of Homeland Security) and state law. Employers must obey both sets of laws. (Just like federal minimum wage laws cover interstate commerce and state minimum wage laws cover everything else.)

The "activists" who hoped for the demise of the CNMI Labor Department have been sorely disappointed. They are particularly fearful because, if the CNMI Labor Department revokes umbrella permits, then workers are deportable within 10 days under federal law unless they can get a federal permit. Guess what? There are no federal permits at the moment, because the federal regulations were thrown out by a federal judge. So the real fear with Doromal and Syed is that they are only federal visas and when an umbrella permit is revoked, it means no jobs. Under federal law, if they are illegal for certain periods of time, they are disqualified from entering the U.S. on any improved status.

Again, I find it interesting the connections between the Interior, foreign organizations and human rights activist Wendy Doromal for it supports the hidden agenda since the beginning of our fight. As for the Interior, I was not aware that the newly installed assistant secretary Tony Babauta could give legal advice to foreign organizations on U.S. soil.

Gregorio Cruz
Taotao Tano CNMI Inc.

A PLACE

From Page 10

mine their political views. The vast majority are ethnic Albanians, who endured repression in the old Yugoslavia surrounded in a sea of ethnic Slavs.

Some say this resembles Israel's position as a small non-Arab island in a hostile region.

Kosovo's long-held yearnings for independence only became reality after a U.S.-led NATO bombing campaign in 1999. The idea that America is at war with Muslims simply makes no sense to them. Kosovars don't think religion played a role in the fighting. Ethnicity has always mattered, but religion, they say, is not about politics.

The way Valentina, the future veterinarian, explained it, "I am a Muslim, just for myself. I cannot say what others should believe."

That's part of what people here like about America: Freedom of thought, freedom of religion and, that elusive but desperately vital concept, rule of law.

"Imagine," the government employee marveled, "in the United States, the president, the most powerful man, was put on trial!" He was talking about Bill Clinton's impeachment. Kosovars even love that Americans almost ditched their president, the one of the ruddy cheeks grinning over Pristina's Bill Clinton Boulevard.

Frida Ghitis writes about global affairs for The Miami Herald.

Saipan lass to represent San Diego in nat'l pageant

A Saipan-born lass who recently moved to San Diego, California, has been crowned Miss Jr. Teen San Diego in her age division, making her one of four teens who will represent San Diego at the Cities of America National Pageant in Orlando, Florida.

Stephannie Weakley, 15, was also named Miss Photogenic from a group of 122 young women at the Cities of America 2010 Nationals Preliminary Pageant in San Diego.

Stehpannie is the daughter of Becky Timpa nee Castro of Triple J Saipan. Her stepfather, Darrell Timpa, serves in the U.S. Navy and is stationed at the Navy School of Medicine as the director of the IDC School. Her father is Gary Weakley. Her grandparents are Romeo and Julia Matanane Cabales of Sinajana, Guam.

Stephannie Weakley is crowned Miss Jr. Teen San Diego in her age division, making her one of four teens who will represent San Diego at the Cities of America National Pageant in Orlando, Florida.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Stephannie attended Mt. Carmel School on Saipan, Bishop Baumgautner Memorial School in Sinajana, and George Washington High School before moving to San Diego.

As part of her prize, Stephannie received an all-expense-paid trip to Orlando, Florida to compete with other teens nationwide for the title Cities of America National Miss Teen 2011.

The Cities of America National Pageant Competition will be held at the beautiful Rosen Center Hotel in Orlando. Over $60,000 in prizes and awards will be presented. Included in these prizes will be cash scholarships and bonds that will total over $40,000.

The Orlando Convention Center will once again be hosting the casual wear and formal wear competitions, along with the main production finals.

The Cities of America National Competition will have contestants from over 40 cities who will be spending five nights and six days in Orlando, Florida. ***(PR)***

USVI gets $1.1M grant for landfill cleanup

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Tony Babauta, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas, signed yesterday a $1,154,780, Capital Improvement Project grant to clean up scrap metal and tires illegally stockpiled on and around the Anguilla and Bovoni landfills in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The grant addresses a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's order, which requires scrap materials gathered around the USVI landfills be safely disposed of.

The Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority will manage and use funds for the collection, transportation, cleaning and treatment of scrap materials collected around the landfills. VIWMA is expected to safely process nearly 40 percent of the illegal waste that has been accumulated and ship scrap tires to an approved recycling or disposal facility in an environmentally sound manner.

"I am enthusiastic about this initiative. These landfills are replete with potentially hazardous and environmentally harmful waste products. We need to limit our susceptibility to the risks associated with potential tire fires and the unnecessary emission of additional pollutants into the air, land and surrounding waters," said Babauta.

Landfilling scrap tires may potentially form breeding grounds for huge swarms of mosquitoes that carry the West Nile virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis if not properly disposed of or recycled.

"The receipt of these funds is a critical step forward and will provide VIWMA with the necessary resources to begin the cleanup process, benefitting not just the environment but local USVI communities as well," added Babauta.

The Anguilla and Bovoni landfills hold the largest stockpile of tires on St. Thomas. ***(DOI)***

15th MEU reaches out to Guam community

DEDEDO, Guam—Twenty Marines and sailors from the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, attached to USS *Peleliu*, visited a children's summer camp in the village of Dededo, Guam June 7.

The children were taking part in the Dededo Mayor's Drug-Free Summer Program that focuses on giving kids alternatives to using alcohol, tobacco and drugs.

The unit sought to promote an active and healthy lifestyle by participating in sports activities and games with the children during the event.

"Whenever we have port visits, it's important to get out in the community and give something back," said Cmdr. David Schilling, chaplain of the unit. "Being a Marine unit, we all work out pretty frequently, and we think that good health and fitness is something we could come out and share with the kids."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit participate in a children's summer camp in the village of Dededo, Guam on June 7. The children were taking part in the Dededo Mayor's Drug-Free Summer Program.

According to Joanne Cepeda, the summer camp's program and event coordinator, the children were very excited to have military members come out to exercise with them.

"They were thrilled when I told them that this event was going to occur," Cepeda said. "They have been very enthusiastic and energized while playing with the Sailors and Marines. I have never seen them so excited to exercise!"

The children took part in a variety of activities to include basketball, soccer, races, kickball and obstacle courses. The kids also had the opportunity to learn about the different jobs held by the Marines and Sailors in the unit.

"I really enjoyed interacting with these kids," said Sgt. Abel Pequeno. "I think they had a lot of fun and learned a lot from us. Hopefully, they continue with a healthy lifestyle, and maybe one day, some of these kids will be future Marines or Sailors."

To learn more about the 15th MEU, visit their Web site at http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/external/15thmeu/.

For more information on USS *Peleliu*, visit the command's Web site at http://www.peleliu.navy.mil/default.aspx. ***(Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Peter Lewis)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Temporary shutdown of LB Archives Building

In an effort to reduce operational costs, the Legislative Bureau Archives Building will be temporarily closed down.

The work stations for employees assigned to the Archives Building have been relocated to the main building and are now occupying the office space of the CNMI Youth Congress. Legislative documents may be accessed by contacting the employees at their new designated office.

The office of the CNMI Youth Congress has been relocated to the office space adjacent to the office of the website content editor. The new contact information for both the Archives and the Office of the CNMI Youth Congress are as follows:

CNMI Youth Congress: 664-8863 IC No. 501

Archivist clerk: 664-8845 IC No. 311

Librarian: 664-8845 IC No. 256. ***(PR)***

Delegate bets square off in Marianas Agupa

Former lieutenant governor Jesse Camacho Borja will be a guest on Marianas Agupa this Saturday, June 12, 2010, to discuss his bid for a U.S. Congress seat. Borja, the candidate for the Democratic Party, will be facing off with incumbent Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan along with two other aspirants, local attorney Joe Camacho and former governor Juan N. Babauta. The show is from 10am to 11am on Magic 100.3 FM.

The Chamorro talk show program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona, with a special guest host, former mayor Joseph S. Inos. The talk show airs every Saturday between 9am and 11am. Additionally, the show features a special report from Rota with correspondent and commentator Thomas D. Mendiola and a report from Tinian by correspondent and radio commentator, former senator David M. Cing. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. For more information, e-mail marianasagupa@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

John Gonzales LIVE schedule

John Gonzales Live airs live on Wednesday (June 9); replays on Sunday (June 13) and Monday (June 14) all from 7pm to 8pm on Ch. 2.

Topic: Diabetes and blood pressure control and education and a fulfilling career in pharmacy. Guests are Benjamin Curry and Steven Evans, visiting pharmacy interns from the University of Hawaii

Call 287-4230, Text 285-6382, or e-mail johngonzales@pticom.com for your question or comments.

NMC Summer 2010 registration ongoing

Registration for the Northern Marianas College's Summer 2010 semester will be ongoing to July 2 for Summer Session II.

The college offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in elementary education, associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resource management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

New students are required to take an English and Math placement test before they register. The schedule of the English and Math placement tests and the Summer 2010 class schedule can be found online at www.nmcnet.edu.

The Summer 2010 semester is divided into four sessions: Regular Summer Session (nine-week courses), Extended Summer Session (12-week courses), Summer Session I (six-week courses) and Summer Session II (six-week courses starting July 6).

Those who have not applied for admission can still do so by visiting the College's Office of Admissions and Records (OAR) and picking up an application form. Application forms can also be downloaded from the NMC Web site.

Application for admissions will be accepted until the last day of registration provided that both placement tests have been taken.

Meeting for Boy Scout adult leaders set

Jesus C. Muna, chairman of the CNMI District of the Aloha Council, Boy Scouts of America, is informing all Boy Scout adult leaders that there will be roundtable meeting on Thursday, June 10, 2010, at 6pm at the Oleai Elementary School cafeteria.

The agenda will include preparation for the July 4th parade and the upcoming 2010 CNMI District Boy Scout Summer Camp Program, to be held on July 25-Aug. 1, 2010, at the Kan Pacific swimming pool field in Marpi.

The presence of all Boy Scout adult leaders at this roundtable meeting will be greatly appreciated. Scout parents or legal guardians are also invited to attend this meeting.

For more information, call Calistro Reyes at 235-9708/ 285-9709, Oscar C. Torres at 236-9870 or William Hunter at 235-6025. ***(PR)***

CNMI Women's Organization meeting

The chairwoman of the CNMI Women's Organization, Florine Hofschneider, is calling a meeting for CNMI Women on Thursday, June 10, at 12pm at the Canton Restaurant in Garapan. The meeting is Dutch (pay for your own meal) type.

Summer 2010 Important Dates

■ June 4-July 2, 2010: Registration for Summer Session II, 9pm to 6pm

■ July 6, 2010: First Day of Instruction for Summer Session II

■ July 6-July 8, 2010: Add-Drop Course(s) Days for Summer Session II

For more information regarding admissions or registration, contact OAR at 234-5498 Ext 1537 or email oar@nmcnet.edu, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

Business

Slimmer iPhone
with clearer screen due June 24

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The next iPhone comes out June 24 and will have a higher-resolution screen, longer battery life and thinner design.

CEO Steve Jobs opened Apple Inc.'s annual conference for software developers Monday by demonstrating the iPhone 4, which will cost $199 or $299 in the U.S. with a two-year AT&T contract, depending on the capacity. The iPhone 3GS, which debuted last year, will still be available, for $99.

Some of the mystery surrounding Apple's latest creation had been punctured in April, when the tech blog Gizmodo bought a lost iPhone prototype for $5,000 and posted pictures of the unit. Apple demanded it back, and authorities have been investigating whether a Gizmodo editor broke any laws.

"Stop me if you've already seen this," Jobs said Monday as he started his demo.

The iPhone 4 is sleeker and more advanced than the original iPhone that came out in 2007. Like the iPhone 3GS, it comes in black or white, though it has a more angular look. Its front and back are covered with glass, and it is rimmed with stainless steel that acts as part of the phone's antenna.

AP

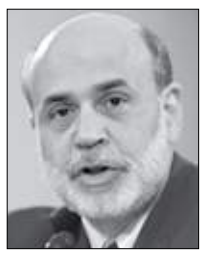
Apple CEO Steve Jobs smiles with new iPhone at the Apple Worldwide Developers Conference, Monday, June 7, 2010 in San Francisco.

It is about three-eighths of an inch thick; the iPhone 3GS is nearly half an inch. It can shoot high-definition video, catching up to some other smart phones. It has a gyroscope in addition to other sensors, to enable more advanced motion-sensing applications, such as games and mapping services.

The display on the iPhone remains 3.5 inches diagonally, but Jobs noted that it can show four times as many pixels—the individual colored dots that make up an image—as the previous screen. That makes for a sharper appearance.

Bernanke sees recovery gaining traction

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said Monday he is hopeful the economy will gain traction and not fall back into a "double dip" recession.



Bernanke

"My best guess is we will have a continued recovery, but it won't feel terrific," Bernanke said.

That's because economic growth won't be robust enough to quickly drive down the unemployment rate, now at 9.7 percent, he said in remarks to the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, a nonpartisan research group.

The economy grew at a 3 percent pace in the first quarter of this year. That's good growth during normal times. But coming out of such a deep recession, the economy must grow much more strongly to make a dent in the jobless rate.

Fears have grown that the recovery could be derailed if Europe's debt crisis turns into a broader financial contagion, crimping lending in the United States and around the globe. The situation has spooked investors, sending Wall Street into fits of panic.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Consumer borrowing up slightly in April

WASHINGTON (AP)—Consumer borrowing increased slightly in April, a sign that Americans may have more faith in the economic recovery. Borrowing rose by $954.8 million in April, the Federal Reserve said Monday. But the government revised away a gain it had originally reported for March. Instead, it reported that credit fell a sharp $5.44 billion during that month. The April increase, if it stands, would be only the second gain in the past 15 months. Economists are hoping that households will soon feel confident enough to borrow more and help sustain the recovery. Consumer credit also rose in January. Beyond the January and April gains, consumer credit has posted a string of declines that started in February 2009. Households have cut back on their spending to repair their battered balance sheets.

Honolulu Star-Advertiser publishes first issue

HONOLULU (AP)—The *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* on Monday started its first day as Hawaii's largest newspaper and as the lone major daily in Honolulu. "Aloha. Star-Advertiser unites Oahu's 2 daily newspapers," read the banner headline across the first issue. The paper is emerging from a long newspaper war between the city's former two major dailies: the 128-year-old *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* and *The Honolulu Advertiser*, which dated to 1856. The battle ended with Oahu Publications Inc., the Bulletin's owner, buying *The Honolulu Advertiser* from Gannett Co. and merging the two operations. The circulation of the *Star-Advertiser* is expected to be about 135,000 daily and 150,000 on Sundays.

Walgreen ending CVS Caremark network relationship

NEW YORK (AP)—Drugstore chain Walgreen Co. said Monday it will no longer do business with CVS Caremark's pharmacy benefits management operation because it wants better prices and objects to policies designed to drive customers toward CVS stores. The decision does not affect current Caremark contracts, but if Walgreen stands by the move, it won't handle any Caremark-managed prescriptions in about three years. Walgreen said it will not participate in new or renewed Caremark plans starting Monday. Walgreen is the largest U.S. drugstore chain in terms of locations and revenue, slightly ahead of CVS Caremark Corp. It runs more than 7,500 stores across all states, along with Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C.

Nation

Well cap captures more oil, but outlook's gloomy

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The cap on the blown-out well in the Gulf is capturing a half-million gallons a day, or anywhere from one-third to three-quarters of the oil spewing from the bottom of the sea, officials said Monday. But the hopeful report was offset by a warning that the farflung slick has broken up into hundreds and even thousands of patches of oil that may inflict damage that could persist for years.

Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen, the government's point man for the crisis, said the breakup has complicated the cleanup.

"Dealing with the oil spill on the surface is going to go on for a couple of months," he said at a briefing in Washington. But "long-term issues of restoring the environment and the habitats and stuff will be years."

Allen said the containment cap that was installed late last week is now collecting about 460,000 gallons of oil a day out of the approximately 600,000 to 1.2 million gallons believed to be spewing from the well a mile underwater.

The amount of oil captured is being slowly ramped up as more vents on the cap are closed. Crews are moving carefully to avoid a dangerous pressure buildup and to prevent the formation of the icy crystals that thwarted a previous effort to contain the leak. The captured oil is being pumped to a ship on the surface.

Helen Thomas ends White House career amid uproar

WASHINGTON (AP)—Helen Thomas, the opinionated White House correspondent who used her seat in the front row of history to grill 10 presidents and often exasperate them, lost her storied perch Monday in a flap over calling on Israelis to get "out of Palestine."

Thomas, 89, who made her name as a bulldog for United Press International and was a pioneer for women in journalism, abruptly retired as a columnist for Hearst News Service. The announcement, in a terse statement by Hearst, came after videotaped remarks she made to an independent filmmaker spread virally through the Internet.

Thomas

She apologized, but White House spokesman Robert Gibbs denounced her comments as "offensive and reprehensible." Her press corps colleagues with the White House Correspondents Association issued a rare admonishment calling them "indefensible."

Thomas joined UPI in 1943 and began covering the White House for the wire service in 1960. Fiercely competitive, she became the first female White House bureau chief for a wire service when UPI named her to the position in 1974. She was also the first female officer at the National Press Club, where women had once been barred as members.

Progressives criticize White House, Democrats

WASHINGTON (AP)—Progressive activists who helped elect Barack Obama president complained on Monday that the administration and congressional Democrats have been too timid and too willing to compromise.

Even though Obama's major first-term achievement—an overhaul of the nation's health care system—passed without a single Republican vote, progressive leaders who gathered in Washington criticized the president for failing to create a government-run insurance option to compete with private industry.

They faulted Obama for the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the slow pace in repealing the ban on gays serving in the military and last year's economic stimulus package, which they described as inadequate at $787 billion. They also criticized his handling of the Gulf oil spill.

"The White House has been an uncertain trumpet," said Robert Borosage, a co-director of the Campaign for America's Future, a progressive organization. "The administration's reforms were too often too timid from the start and too readily compromised along the way."

ACROSS THE NATION

Searchers for missing Ore. boy flooded with tips

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Twenty-two state, local and federal agencies are following up on more than 1,200 tips in the search for a 7-year-old Portland boy who has been missing for four days. Kyron Horman disappeared from Skyline Elementary School on Friday. Multnomah County sheriff's deputies and volunteers have been searching the densely wooded area near the pastoral school since then. On Monday morning, deputies and FBI agents posted about 40 yards from the school stopped approaching cars and asked passengers whether they were at the school Friday and had any information about Kyron. Sheriff's Capt. Jason Gates described the variety of tips as "leads that aren't as exciting, and other leads that are more prevalent."

Lightning kills Tenn. woman before fiance proposed

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (AP)—A Tennessee man says he planned to propose to his girlfriend along a North Carolina hiking trail when she was struck and killed by lightning. Thirty-year-old Richard Butler of Knoxville tells the Asheville Citizen Times that he took Bethany Lott to Max Patch Bald, near Asheville. He says he wanted his 25-year-old girlfriend to think the two were on a hike but that he had a ring in his pocket and was planning to ask her to marry him. Heavy rain let up as the two walked toward the bald, but more bad weather returned. Butler says there were three lightning strikes. The last one hit the couple. Butler suffered third-degree burns. Paramedics declared Lott, also of Knoxville, dead at the scene. There was no answer for a number listed for Butler on Monday.

1 worker dead in natural gas line blast in Texas

CLEBURNE, Texas (AP)—A large natural gas line in north Texas erupted Monday after utility workers accidentally hit the line, sending a massive fireball into the air and killing one worker, officials said. Authorities found the missing worker's body several hours after the explosion, once searchers could safely walk through the entire charred area. Authorities had hoped the missing man had left the scene on his own, like some of his colleagues who drove themselves to hospitals. Brian Fine, Hood County's emergency management coordinator, said the worker's body was found some distance from the blast site. The man's name was not immediately released.

Asia

Ousted RP president to concede poll loss

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Ousted Philippine leader Joseph Estrada said Monday that he was ready to concede defeat to opposition frontrunner Benigno Aquino III, who has an unbeatable lead in the vote count from last month's presidential elections, and plans to retire from politics and his first love—the movies.

Estrada

Estrada, who is trailing Aquino by about 5.6 million votes with just about a million left to be counted, said he will abide by the results of official congressional canvassing, which is expected to be concluded soon.

Aquino's apparent victory has been largely attributed to his family name and strong anti-corruption campaign. His late parents—opposition Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. and former President Corazon Aquino—are deeply revered figures in the country for their roles in fighting late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Estrada's departure will put an end to one of the most colorful political and movie careers in this impoverished Southeast Asian nation.

"Most likely we can call this my last hurrah in politics," Estrada told Philippine TV network ABS-CBN in London, where he was on vacation.

"I've been a mayor, a senator, vice-president, president and even a prisoner," he said. "I have gone far."

The former action movie star will continue to help the poor, who make up a third of about 90 million Filipinos with a $1-a-day income, and will help Aquino unite the fractious political opposition to battle poverty and corruption, his spokeswoman Margaux Salcedo said.

"While elections are over, Estrada's mission to help the poor is not. The next administration will need a lot of help after the damage from the present administration," Salcedo said in a statement in Manila.

Estrada, 73, "is no longer inclined to pursue acting at his age," Salcedo said.

Indian court convicts 7 in Bhopal gas disaster

BHOPAL, India (AP)—A court Monday convicted seven former senior employees of Union Carbide's Indian subsidiary of "death by negligence" for their roles in the 1984 leak of toxic gas that killed an estimated 15,000 people in the world's worst industrial disaster.

Survivors of the Bhopal accident, some of whom gathered in this central Indian city chanting slogans, said the light sentences—two years in prison—are too little, too late given the scale of the damage. In India's notoriously slow justice system, the appeal process could drag on for years, even decades, while those convicted remain free on bail.

On the morning of Dec. 3, 1984, a pesticide plant run by Union Carbide leaked about 40 tons of deadly methyl isocyanate gas into the air of Bhopal, quickly killing about 4,000 people. Lingering effects of the poison raised the death toll to about 15,000 over the next few years, according to government estimates.

In all, at least 500,000 people were affected, the Indian government says. More than 25 years later, activists say thousands of children are born with brain damage, missing palates and twisted limbs because of their parents' exposure to the gas or water contaminated by it.

10 foreign troops killed on deadly Afghan day

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Ten foreign soldiers, including seven Americans, were killed in separate attacks on the deadliest day of the year for Western forces in Afghanistan. A U.S. civilian contractor who trains Afghan police also died in a brazen suicide assault.

The bloodshed Monday comes as insurgents step up bombings and other attacks ahead of a major NATO operation in the Taliban stronghold of Kandahar that Washington hopes will turn the tide of the nearly nine-year war.

Half the NATO deaths—five Americans—occurred in a single blast in eastern Afghanistan, U.S. spokesman Col. Wayne Shanks said without giving further details. It was a grim reminder the insurgents can strike throughout the country—not simply in the south, which has become the main focus of the U.S. campaign.

ASIAN BRIEFS

New Japan government names familiar Cabinet

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's incoming government named its new Cabinet on Tuesday, keeping key members in place as the ruling party looks to revive the moribund economy and restore voter confidence ahead of next month's elections. Prime Minister-elect Naoto Kan, whose administration will officially be sworn in Tuesday evening, chose to maintain the bulk of the existing Cabinet, including the country's powerful foreign and defense ministers. But he added several new faces as he seeks to distance his government from the previous one, which was bogged down by broken campaign promises and financial scandals. "With freshness and professionalism, we would like to create a government that is thoroughly clean and accountable," said new Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihito Sengoku.

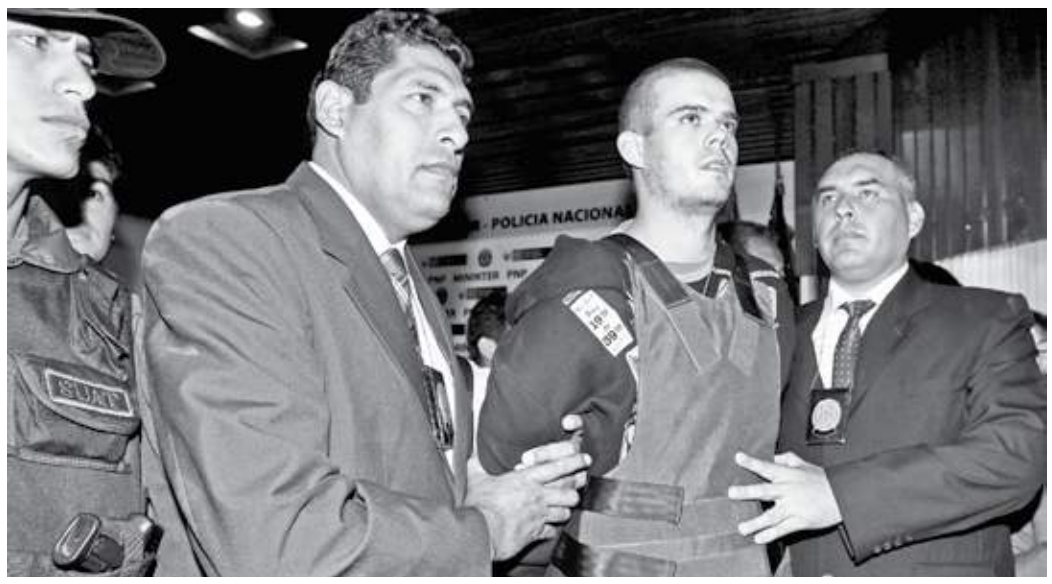
North Korea promotes Kim relative in reshuffle

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The brother-in-law of Kim Jong Il was promoted to the No. 2 spot in the secretive nation's leadership, a position that could allow him to become the next ruler or a kingmaker who will decide which of Kim's sons succeeds his father. The announcement was made after a rare parliamentary session reportedly attended by the reclusive Kim, who is believed to have suffered a stroke two years ago. It was difficult to assess the 68-year-old leader's health because Pyongyang's state-run television only showed a long shot of him, sitting behind a desk in the middle of a long line of parliamentarians. The rubber-stamp parliament, or the Supreme People's Assembly, usually meets once each year to approve bills vetted by the ruling Workers' Party. The body met in April, and no reason was given for holding Monday's unusual second session.

Copycat student torches school

BANGKOK (AP)—A high school student stressed out over pressure to excel burned down part of his prestigious boarding school in what may have been behavior copying the widespread arson of recent protests in Bangkok, authorities said Monday. "He has been watching too much news," police Col. Chetta Sangsrikaew, investigating the fire set over the weekend by a 16-year-old student, told The Associated Press. Chetta said that television images of rioters setting ablaze buildings in the Thai capital—coupled with stress—could have prompted him to set fire to the Mahidol Wittayanusorn school in Nakhon Pathom province Sunday. Police have not filed charges, and the student is now under the care of child psychologists, said provincial Gov. Panada Disakul, who interviewed the student after the police caught him. "I'm worried about how he could integrate back to school."

World


AP

Police officers escort Joran Van der Sloot, second right, during a press conference at a police station in Lima, Saturday, June 5, 2010.

Dutch murder suspect shows different faces on TV

AMSTERDAM (AP)—Joran van der Sloot can be charming, angry, deceitful, tearful. The young Dutchman has been all that and more, playing out his troubled drama on TV over the five years since he came under suspicion in the disappearance of American teenager Natalee Holloway in Aruba.

By his own admission, half of what he says is a lie.

Twice arrested and released for lack of evidence in the Holloway case, Van der Sloot was taken into custody again last week in connection with the slaying in Peru of Stephany Flores, a 21-year-old college student police say he met while playing poker at a Lima casino. Her May 30 killing came five years to the day after Holloway disappeared.

Towering over the Peruvian officers flanking him, the 6-foot-3-inch Dutchman appeared sullen and moist-eyed this weekend when he was paraded before journalists in handcuffs and a bulletproof vest after he was caught and extradited from Chile. Chilean police said Van der Sloot told investigators he was innocent in the case.

He was much more subdued than during his earlier appearances on American and Dutch TV, where he has become something of a minor celebrity—feeding public curiosity by spinning contradictory stories about Holloway's final hours and sometimes displaying flashes of a volatile temper.

Once, at the end of a relaxed interview with Dutch crime reporter Peter de Vries, Van der Sloot threw a glass of wine in the reporter's eyes.

Aad Schalke, a Dutch private investigator who administered a polygraph to Van der Sloot for a TV show about the Holloway case aired last year, said he was not surprised the 22-year-old was in trouble again.

"The moment he's not in control any more, he can be really dangerous," the detective told The Associated Press on Monday.

Van der Sloot is the son of a respected lawyer in Aruba who died in February. He was 17 when Holloway disappeared in 2005 and he spent three months in detention, then returned to the Netherlands to study. Two years later, he was arrested again and sent back to Aruba for further questioning.

It's unclear how he supported himself when he wasn't in jail. He is an avid gambler, and reportedly spent much of the last two years in Thailand, where De Vries claimed in 2008 Van der Sloot was recruiting Thai women for the sex trade in the Netherlands.

Just days after the slaying in Peru, Van der Sloot was charged in the United States with trying to extort $250,000 from Holloway's family in exchange for disclosing the location of her body and describing how she died. U.S. prosecutors say $15,000 was transferred to a Dutch bank account in his name.

Egypt to keep open border with impoverished Gaza

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt (AP)—After three years of cooperating in the Israeli blockade of Gaza, Egypt said Monday that it will leave its border with the Palestinian territory open indefinitely for humanitarian aid and restricted travel.

With international pressure building to ease the blockade, an Egyptian security official said sealing off Hamas-ruled Gaza has only bred more militancy.

The decision to ease the restrictions erected by Israel to isolate and punish Hamas comes a week after a deadly Israeli raid on a flotilla of activists trying to break the blockade.

The move restores a link to the outside world for at least some of Gaza's 1.5 million Palestinians. It also appeared calculated to defuse anger in the Arab and Muslim world over Egypt's role in maintaining the blockade and to show that Egypt, too, is now pressing Israel to open at least its land crossings with Gaza.

"Egypt is the one that broke the blockade," Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman Hossam Zaki said. "We are not going to let the occupying power escape from its responsibilities."

WORLD BRIEFS

Foreign firms in Haiti ready for construction boom

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Like a small-town booster, Randall Perkins proudly shows off his base camp: air-conditioned bedrooms and offices for 120 managers, a mess hall that can serve 1,000 meals a day, a gym and an infirmary alongside his bulldozers and dump trucks. Pompano Beach, Florida-based AshBritt Inc. so far has invested $25 million in its Haitian reconstruction operation covering a soccer field. Now all Perkins needs is a government contract to make his investment pay off. Nearly six months after the devastating January quake that killed as many 300,000 and destroyed much of the capital, not one major reconstruction contract has been awarded. That hasn't stopped AshBritt and other masters of disaster from preparing for the day when the pledged international support—some $10 billion over the next decade—starts going up for bid.

UN leader tasked with Guatemala crime woes resigns

GUATEMALA CITY (AP)—The chief of a U.N. commission responsible for battling corruption and crime in Guatemala resigned Monday, accusing the country of failing to keep up its end of the deal and its new attorney general of corruption. Spaniard Carlos Castresana, a judge by training, said Guatemala did not help the commission with its investigations. "Nothing that was promised is being done," he told reporters, without offering any specifics. "On a personal level, I feel I cannot do anything more for Guatemala."

Campus Life

SSHS Manta Ray Battalion changes command

There is always a special day where every leader has to relinquish his position and allow another person to come in and take the lead. It's similar to how a president comes to the end of his or her term and the next best candidate for presidency comes and fills that position. For Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps cadets, the change of command is that special day.

On June 3, 2010, Saipan Southern High School's JROTC Manta Ray Battalion held a change of command ceremony, with outgoing battalion commander cadet Lt. Col. Ruby Anne Reyes passing the baton to cadet Lt. Col. Welinton David for the incoming 2010-2011 school year.

"We thank cadet Lt. Col. Ruby Anne Reyes for being a great leader by helping our beloved battalion retain the Honor Unit with Distinction and hosting a successful Military Ball this year," said cadet 1Lt. Ashley V. Alejo. "Once again, thank you to cadet Ly. Col. Ruby Anne Reyes and congratulations to cadet Lt. Col. Welinton David!" ***(PR)***

Students in innocence projects help uncover wrongful convictions in Texas

By DAVE MONTGOMERY
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

AUSTIN, Texas—For years, James Woodard wrote letter after letter from his prison cell, hoping to convince anyone willing to listen that he was innocent.

Most of his pleas were ignored, but some weren't. Among those who took an interest was Alexis Hoff, a student at Texas Wesleyan School of Law in Fort Worth.

In 2007, Hoff, now Alexis Hoff Allen, was a member of the Wesleyan Innocence Project, composed of law student volunteers who spend hours of their own time investigating possible wrongful convictions.

Working with the Dallas County public defender's office and district attorney's office, the 25-year-old student pored over court records, transcripts and other documents in an exhaustive re-examination of the case. Allen's review ultimately helped lead to DNA testing that cleared Woodard in the 1981 slaying of his girlfriend.

"She was a godsend for me," said Woodard, who walked out of prison in 2008 after spending 27 years behind bars and now lives in Dallas. "I absolutely love her."

Although their efforts don't always yield success stories like Woodard's, innocence projects on university campuses have become a powerful force in the criminal justice system. The work of student volunteers has figured heavily in many of the 42 exonerations in Texas—the most in the nation—and helped clear Tim Cole of Fort Worth, who died in prison after he was wrongfully convicted of sexual assault.

"They are extremely essential," said attorney Michelle Moore of the Dallas County public defender's office, who credits Wesleyan law students for assisting in many of the DNA-based reversals in Dallas County. "They've been very instrumental from the start."

Typically guided by professional advisers, students plow through old court records and police files, interview witnesses and prisoners, and sometimes spend days on the road looking for inconsistencies and evidence that might suggest a wrongful conviction. It's shoe-leather detective work that often takes students through cold cases that perhaps all but the inmate have long since forgotten

Two students at the Innocence Project of Texas, founded by Amarillo attorney Jeff Blackburn and based at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, conducted much of the preliminary work that contributed to Cole's posthumous exoneration by a Travis County judge.

The group began pursuing the case after receiving a letter from the real assailant, Jerry Wayne Johnson, who was in prison on three rape convictions and later confessed to the rape for which Cole had been convicted.

The two students, Sarah Hegi and Nick Vilbas, who have since graduated, interviewed Johnson, searched records and made frequent trips to the Police Department and prosecutors' offices to dig up evidence. Among their discoveries was a color Polaroid photograph that had been used to identify Cole; photos of other suspects were black and white, thus making Cole more prominent.

AP

Second year law students Richard Torlincasi, form left, Taylor Anderson and John Shaw look through letters from inmates asking for help from the Innocence Project, at Texas Wesleyan University School of Law, April 30, 2010.

"The students played an integral part in clearing Tim's name," said Cole's brother, Cory Session, who is now policy director for the Innocence Project of Texas. "If it hadn't been for those students at the Texas Tech law clinic, we wouldn't have come to this historic day."

Another high-profile case is that of Texas death row prisoner Hank Skinner, who was convicted of capital murder for killing his live-in girlfriend and her two mentally impaired sons in 1995. The case received national attention after students from the Medill Innocence Project at Northwestern University in Illinois began looking into the conviction and interviewed a star witness who later recanted her testimony. The U.S. Supreme Court recently agreed to hear Skinner's petition to obtain DNA evidence that he says will prove his innocence.

The Medill Innocence Project, founded 11 years ago, is one of five original innocence projects in the country, Director David Protess said. Now, he says, there are more than 60 nationwide.

Widening public concern over wrongful convictions in Texas has spurred growing student involvement in campus innocence projects. Two operate at Texas Wesleyan University: the Wesleyan Innocence Project at the downtown law school and the Wesleyan Justice Project, composed largely of undergraduate students at the main campus in east Fort Worth. Innocence projects at the state's four public law schools—the University of Houston, the University of Texas, Texas Southern University and Texas Tech—are subsidized by the state, each receiving $100,000 a year.

Students at other campuses are also getting involved. More than 75 students turned out for a daylong innocence seminar at the University of Texas at Dallas.

"Most of these students have never read a trial transcript or a police report," said Anthony Champagne, professor of political science and director of pre-law at UT-Dallas. "The amazing thing is that these students turned out on a Saturday and stayed there all day long. It was pretty extraordinary."

The apparent effectiveness of the university projects will likely prompt a state advisory panel to back away from recommending the creation of a state innocence commission similar to those operating in California, Connecticut, Illinois, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

Named after Cole, who received a posthumous pardon from Gov. Rick Perry earlier this year, the state advisory panel is charged with recommending criminal justice improvements to curtail wrongful convictions in Texas. At their last meeting, members leaned against the creation of a state innocence commission, largely because of the work being done through university innocence projects, and discussed tightening coordination among them.

The two projects at Texas Wesleyan, a 120-year-old university affiliated with the United Methodist Church, have gained increasing recognition within criminal justice circles and have been involved in hundreds of cases over the past five years.

The law school's Wesleyan Innocence Project, started in 2005, works with the Dallas public defender's office, which makes many of the case assignments to the Wesleyan law students. The undergrads initially worked with the law students but branched into the separate Wesleyan Justice Project about two years ago.

Wesleyan officials say that keeping the two groups separate fits the differing educational needs of law students and undergraduates. More than 130 students handle cases through the law school program. The Wesleyan Justice Project has 30 to 35 participants, including undergrads as well as alumni and other interested community members. One is a nurse who examines medical reports as part of the research. Students in the undergrad group work closely with the innocence project at Texas Tech.

The two Wesleyan groups have an identical goal: making sure that inmates aren't behind bars when they shouldn't be. Taylor Anderson, president of the Wesleyan Innocence Project, says the experience can be rewarding and eye-opening.

"You come into this law business, you think that everything runs perfect," said the 24-year-old law student. "You learn that everything is very imperfect."

Anderson said he was hooked after attending a meeting in which an exonerated former prisoner told of his ordeal.

"I learned this is something I wanted to do, something I wanted to be involved in," he said. Now, much of his daily reading—along with his studies—includes stacks of letters from inmates, who routinely reach out to innocence projects in the hope of finding a sympathetic ally.

Some of the letters are brief requests for applications; others can be page after page of typewritten pleadings. While many of the claims are baseless, Anderson says he scours each one to see whether there may have been a legitimate witness who wasn't called or evidence that didn't make it into trial.

Alexis Hoff Allen, who has graduated from the Wesleyan law school and now works in the Dallas city attorney's office, said she became involved in Woodard's case after the Conviction Integrity Unit in the Dallas district attorney's office felt that it merited further review.

Allen first read the trial transcript and then dug through additional records. Working with assistant public defender Michelle Moore in Dallas, she also interviewed Woodard after he was returned to Dallas on a bench warrant.

"I did a preliminary review of the case and recommended that it should be one of the cases that was tested" through DNA, Allen said. The DNA testing proved that Woodard did not commit the murder, resulting in his release in April 2008.

"To help know I changed someone's life for the better in a tremendous way is a pretty good feeling," Allen said.

Life & Style

Fiesta launches essay competition to honor dads

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Elizabeth Arriola, in the center holding a plaque of recognition as 2010 Outstanding Mother of the Year Award. Beside her is Cheyenne, who won first place in the "I love my mom because…" essay writing contest.

Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan celebrated Mother's Day last month with a tribute to the best mom in the CNMI through an essay writing contest participated in by children who wished to honor their mothers.

This month, Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan will be helping families honor their dads on June 20, 2010, Father's Day, with the launching of the Outstanding Father of the Year essay writing competition.

This marks the second year that Fiesta will be hosting this competition.

Fiesta Resort is now accepting essay entries answering the question "I love my dad because…" Deadline for the submission of entries is on June 15, 2010. Ten entries will be chosen and will automatically make their dad one of the 10 Outstanding Dads of the Year awardees.

The essay entries are the sole basis for choosing the winners and the winning dads will be honored on Father's Day on June 20, 2010. Essays may be submitted via e-mail to oscar_yema@fiestasaipan.com before midnight of June 15, 2010, or by dropping off a hard copy of the entry at Fiesta Resort's Front Office, together with a picture of your dad. For inquires, call Oscar Yema, events and outlets manager of Fiesta Resort at 483-6414.

In last month's celebration of Mother's Day, entries were submitted answering the question "I love my mom because…"

Jimaela Ham won the third place for her mom Armela Ham. Second place honors went to Jimin Cheon for her mom, Miri Kim. The grand prize went to Cheyenne Arriola for her mom, Elizabeth Arriola.

The three best moms were given plaques of recognition by Fiesta Resort and Spa, together with the other awardees for the Outstanding Mother of the Year for 2010. They were Zenaida Cuerdo, Edith Agustin, Ellen Agulto, Violeta Dela Cruz, Nhing Reyes and Farah Fajardo. The essay entries submitted by their children were published in the *Saipan Tribune* days before the celebration of Mother's Day. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jimin Cheon, left, second placer in the "I love my mom" essay writing contest of Fiesta Resort, poses with Miri Kim, awarded as one of the Outstanding Mothers of the Year, and sister Victoria.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From Left, Jimaela Ham, third placer in the "I love my mom" essay writing contest, together with her mom, Armela Ham, recognized as one of the Outstanding Mothers of the Year awardees by Fiesta Resort and Spa.

Aspire to host your own talk show? Oprah wants you

NEW YORK (AP)—Oprah Winfrey wants to give an undiscovered talent a chance to follow in her footsteps on her new cable network.

The talk show host is teaming up with reality TV producer Mark Burnett on a show searching for the next big TV personality. "Your Own Show: Oprah's Search for the Next TV Star" will air on the Oprah Winfrey Network beginning in January, the same month of OWN's launch.

Winfrey is ending "The Oprah Winfrey Show" in September 2011 after 25 seasons.

In a phone interview from Los Angeles, Burnett—the man behind such shows as "Survivor" and "The Apprentice"—said the premise fits perfectly into what people like to watch: Regular people achieving extraordinary things.

"The landscape and acceptance of ordinary people on television is widely accepted ... Much in the way 'American Idol' finds unknown people (to be recording stars) there's no reason we can't find someone who deserves their own show," he said.

Aspiring hosts can upload videos to Oprah.com under categories like traditional talk show, cooking, health and wellness, and interior design. It's possible to also watch and vote on submitted videos. In-person casting calls are happening this month in Atlanta, Dallas and Orange County, California.

Sheletta Brundidge, a talk radio personality and blogger in St. Paul, Minn., plans to be in Dallas for the open casting, pitching a show about marriage mentors.

"People have professional mentors to guide them through their careers, so why not have marriage mentors to help young couples who are struggling with their new lives?" Brundidge said Monday.

Burnett said the most important advice he can give someone who wants to be considered is to be real.

"Try to be authentically yourself. Show energy," he said. "Donald Trump gave me the greatest advice with 'The Apprentice': Find people with the greatest energy source ... you'll be hard-pressed to show me someone who has their own show on TV who is not energetic and who has charisma."

The host of "Your Own Show" has yet to be announced.

Winfrey

'Rude Britannia' looks at 300 years of comic art

By JILL LAWLESS
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

AP
A visitor looks at a giant copy of Viz Comic magazine on display in an exhibition 'Rude Britannia : British Comic Art' at Tate Britain in London, Monday, June 7, 2010.

LONDON (AP)—Some countries overthrow their politicians. Some endure them. In Britain, they just laugh at them.

The renowned British sense of humor is on display in a new London exhibition that charts 300 years of the anarchic artistic spirit that produced the political satire of William Hogarth and "Spitting Image"—as well as the sheer silliness of Benny Hill.

"Rude Britannia," which opens Wednesday at the Tate Britain gallery, is a feast of irreverence and bad taste that asks whether there is a distinctively British sense of humor, and examines how humor is intertwined with the country's cultural and political history.

"This isn't necessarily about 'funny ha ha,'" although there are jokes," Tate Britain director Penelope Curtis said Monday. "It's about how the comic is used to do things we can't do in other ways. Often the comic artist is making a very serious point about something that can't be said openly."

Curator Martin Myrone said there has long been a belief that "a distinct British character—informal, humorous, sarcastic" has produced a strong seam of comic art.

He said that while arguing for national character in art is problematic—and not all the artists in the show are British by birth—"humor has had a very important role to play in the way the story of British art has been told."

While European artists like Jacques-Louis David were striving to create a high-minded new classicism 200 years ago, in Britain the likes of Thomas Rowlandson, James Gillray and Hogarth were using their talents to satirize and caricature the politicians of the day.

The exhibition begins in the 17th century, when printing technology first allowed the mass production of cartoons and political broadsides. Then, as now, cartoonists took aim at politics, the economy and social ills.

One of the earliest works shows Oliver Cromwell, who overthrew the monarchy, donning the regalia of a king. The more things change, many of the artists here seem to say, the more they stay the same.

Some of the images are tastelessly timeless, like the anonymous 18th-century etching "Idol-Worship or the Way to Preferment," which shows gentlemen kissing the enormous posterior of Robert Walpole, a politician widely regarded as Britain's first prime minister.

Throughout the exhibition, crass toilet humor intertwines with the political. The crude slapstick of TV's "Benny Hill Show" or the "Carry On" movies is as central to the British comic tradition as the exalted Hogarth.

One of the show's six themed rooms is devoted to explicitly bawdy art, from 200-year-old erotic etchings to the saucy seaside postcards of Donald McGill, full of plump, smiling figures emitting double entendres that may even cause blushes among readers today. They are on display still attached to the index cards kept by a disapproving public prosecutor, who amassed a thick file on McGill.

The exhibition's centerpiece is a room devoted to politics, showing how artists have skewered politicians from Napoleon Bonaparte to Adolf Hitler and prime ministers Margaret Thatcher and Tony Blair.

British political cartoons are often much more vicious and visceral than their North American counterparts. In one of the milder instances, the Guardian's Steve Bell invariably depicted Prime Minister John Major wearing his underpants over his trousers. Another editorial cartoonist, Martin Rowson, has shown post-Iraq war Blair drenched in blood.

In the 1980s, satirical puppet show "Spitting Image" depicted Thatcher as a butcher with a bloody cleaver. Cartoonist Gerald Scarfe turned her into a prehistoric predator: the Torydactyl.

Today, Scarfe acknowledges affection for the Iron Lady as a subject, despite their political disagreements.

"Mrs. Thatcher was great, because she was a strong woman and she produced strong images," he said. "The cartoon comes from the character. You can't make weak people strong."

Many of the works on display mock, but some also appeal for change. Hogarth's 1751 "Gin Lane" and George Cruikshank's 1862 "The Worship of Bacchus" are both savage depictions of the damage done by excessive alcohol that helped change social attitudes.

In the 1930s, David Low's cartoons of Hitler helped turn British feeling against appeasement. Posters used by protesters against the invasion of Iraq unsuccessfully exhorted Blair to "Make Tea, Not War."

Scarfe, whose work appears in the Sunday Times newspaper, said at the best of times comic art "can produce a kind of rallying point around which people can gather and think, 'That's what I was feeling but couldn't put into words.'"

"I hope it helps sum up people's feelings and hopefully eventually it can become a movement," he said.

Scarfe is, however, realistic about the limits of satire's power. He says many politicians secretly enjoy being caricatured, and often ask if they can buy cartoons of themselves.

And after centuries of satire, Britain officially remains a monarchy with its upper class firmly intact. Laughter has not led to revolution.

"Perhaps we haven't had a revolution because of the safety valve provided by that satirical art," Myrone said. "So it can be quite a conservative force."

Morgan Freeman's space travel for Science Channel

By DAVID BAUDER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

Freeman

NEW YORK (AP)—Actor Morgan Freeman didn't shy away from tough questions for his new Science Channel series about space exploration. On Wednesday's first episode he asks, "Was there a Creator?"

The question, as with most of the topics he discusses on the eight-episode series, is more likely to lead to more questions than it is to answers.

"What we're learning is we don't know a lot more than we do know," said Freeman, whose lifelong fascination with astronomy and space travel coincided with the Science Channel's effort to attract more attention to itself with the help of celebrities who bring a passion to their hobbies.

The Academy Award winner hosts and narrates the series, "Through the Wormhole," and it was made by his production company.

Scientists are tapped to address issues like what happened before the creation of the universe, what dark matter is doing to the galaxies, whether time travel will someday be possible, what intelligent life might exist beyond Earth and how life began on Earth.

The idea of a God that created the universe is hard for many scientists to deal with, but one that some turn to when not everything they see is explained by the complex mathematical equations used to prove theories.

"It is hard for me to get my mind wrapped around the idea that there is an extra, corporal—shall we say, intelligence—that controls everything," Freeman said.

Freeman is intrigued by the speed of light and how and why light travels. The idea of time travel is another interest, although the actor isn't sure whether he'd like to go backward or forward.

Similarly, he'd love to travel in space someday. But he doesn't want to just go for a ride.

"I'd like to have a destination," he said, "and I'd like that destination being a foreign land where there are things we could possibly communicate with. Just wandering around out there—you might as well be out in the ocean trying to swim."

The issues discussed in "Through the Wormhole" are "heady stuff," but they're presented in an entertaining way, said Debbie Myers, the network's general manager. That's one of Myers' chief goals, to break through the stuffy and dry reputation of science programming.

Whoopi Goldberg is doing a science-related game for the network that is due this fall. Will Smith is also hoping to boost the network's "Young Scientist Challenge."

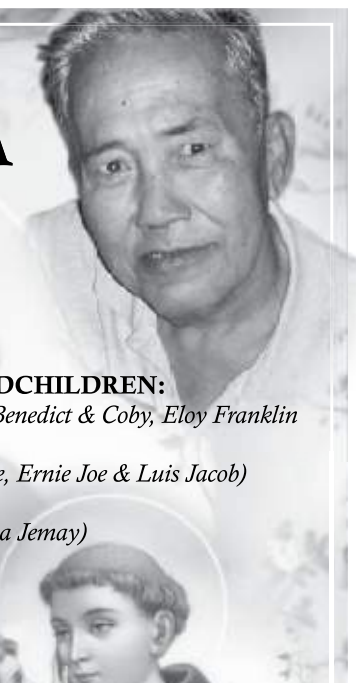
Freeman, who won an Oscar in 2004 for "Million Dollar Baby," brought a common touch to the complex stories on his series, Myers said.

"Morgan is kind of the everyman," she said. "He has a love for science, but he's not a scientist, and he's a great storyteller."

Death and Funeral Announcement

†ERENEO BABAUTA DELA CRUZ

July 02, 1942- June 06, 2010



His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

WIFE: Cayetana T. Dela Cruz

CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN, and GREAT GRANDCHILDREN:

Eloy T. & Shirley Ann R. Dela Cruz *(Hannah Mae-Benedict & Coby, Eloy Franklin Jr. & Carina Lynn)*
Velma DLG. Dela Cruz *(Chelsea Bianca, Tasha Renae, Ernie Joe & Luis Jacob)*
Alva T. Dela Cruz & Joe Flores *(Keli'i & Kalena)*
Ivan T. & Jessica I. Dela Cruz *(Plasido Enrico & Ivana Jemay)*

REARED CHILD:

Anuncia Arlene B. Cangco (Eritana Marie)

REARED BROTHER:

Jose B. & Jessica P. Camacho & Children

BROTHERS/SISTERS IN-LAW:

Bernadita I. Teigita
Carmelita T. & Allen I. Palacios
Vicente T. & Remedio DLC Cangco
Micheal T. & Ana I. Cangco
Paul T. & Evelyn D. Cangco
Isaac T. & Pamela K. Cangco
Hilaria C. & Jerry Woolley
John R. & Rita P. Siren

In his new life, he now joins his:

PARENTS: †Ana B. & Luis R. Dela Cruz
CHILDREN: †Ernie T. Dela Cruz, †Dolores T. Dela Cruz & †Maria Ana T. Dela Cruz
MOTHER/STEPFATHER IN-LAW: †Ignacia T. & Catalino Cangco
BROTHERS IN-LAW: †Pedro K. Teigita, †Samuel T. Cangco

Mass is being offered at Santa Remedio Church every evening at 6:00 pm from Monday, June 07, 2010 thru Friday, June 23, 2010. On Saturday, June 12 & 19, 2010 mass is at 7:00 pm and on Sunday, June 13 & 20, 2010 mass will be at 8:00 am. Nightly rosary is being said at 7:30 pm at Santa Remedio Church.

On June 14, 2010, our beloved †Ereneo B. Dela Cruz will be viewed at the CHC Chapel from 7:00 am to 9:00 am. Responso will follow. Funeral mass will be at 10:00 am at Santa Remedio Church. Burial will follow at the Tanapag Cemetery.

Lawyer: Sheen to plead guilty to misdemeanor

ASPEN, Colo. (AP)—Charlie Sheen could work at a Colorado theater company by day and spend his nights in jail under a deal reached with prosecutors that calls for him to plead guilty to a misdemeanor assault charge in his domestic abuse case, an attorney said Monday.

In exchange, prosecutors would drop criminal mischief and felony menacing charges stemming from an argument Sheen had with his wife on Christmas Day at an Aspen home where they were on vacation, said Yale Galanter, an attorney for Brooke Mueller Sheen.

The deal calls for Sheen to serve a 30-day sentence and three months probation, the lawyer said.

A judge must still approve the agreement. A hearing set for Monday was continued until July 12. Attorneys planned to meet Tuesday in Aspen to discuss the case, Galanter said.

Sheen was at the courthouse with his lawyer Richard Cummins, but neither offered any comments after the proceedings.

Lawyers met privately at the courthouse, with prosecutors asking a judge for more time to work out the deal. Pitkin County Chief Deputy District Attorney Arnold Mordkin didn't provide further details.

"We're going to need more time than available to complete the finer points," he said.

After the meeting, Galanter refused to say what had caused the delay but noted the work-release proposal wasn't a glitch.

"We were all extremely frustrated," Galanter said outside the courthouse. "Right now, we're really back at square one."

He wouldn't elaborate.

Galanter said Brooke Mueller Sheen remained supportive of her husband.

Prosecutors confirmed last week that Sheen had reached a plea agreement but released

Sheen

no details.

Sheen, the star of the hit CBS show "Two and a Half Men," previously pleaded not guilty to menacing, criminal mischief and assault charges. The menacing charge carries a prison sentence of up to three years.

During the jail term, Galanter said, Sheen would be released during the day so he can work at Theatre Aspen. He could leave the jail for work at 8 a.m. and would have to return by 8 p.m.

Paige Price, the theater's artistic director, said Sheen had agreed to work for free. His duties would include teaching a class for professional actors and possible fundraising for the nonprofit.

"We think it is community service in that it is a nonprofit," Price said.

Brooke Mueller Sheen approved the deal, Galanter said. She previously asked prosecutors to drop the charges against Sheen, but they refused, according to the lawyer.

He said prosecutors had offered a deferred sentence, whereby Sheen would plead guilty to a felony and charges would be dropped after two years, which is similar to the way other cases are resolved in Colorado.

Sheen has taken anger management classes and will present evidence showing he has completed a 36-hour course, Galanter said.

"They're both adults, and they have two beautiful babies together. I know they're working on it. I can tell you that no matter what happens, Charlie and Brooke will always be good friends," he said.

On Christmas Day, Brooke Mueller Sheen told police the actor had threatened to kill her after she told him she wanted a divorce. She said he straddled her on a bed with one hand on her neck and the other holding a knife.

Charlie Sheen told police he and his wife had argued but denied threatening her. He told officers they slapped each other on the arms and that he had snapped two pairs of her eyeglasses in front of her, according to an arrest warrant affidavit.

Sheen told police he was upset by the divorce threat. He previously went through a bitter divorce and custody battle with his previous wife Denise Richards.

Within a week of his arrest, Sheen and his current wife both said they wanted to reconcile. In February, they hugged in an Aspen courtroom after a judge modified a restraining order that had kept them from contacting each other.

Since the incident, both have completed alcohol rehab programs, and Galanter has said they've been sober for months.

It's not the first run in with the law for Sheen, the star of films such as "Platoon," "Wall Street" and "Hot Shots!" who agreed last month to return to "Two and a Half Men" for two more seasons.

In December 1996, he was charged with attacking a girlfriend at his Southern California home. He later pleaded no contest and was placed on two years' probation.

In 1998, his father turned him in for violating his parole after a cocaine overdose sent him to the hospital. He was ordered to undergo a rehabilitation program.

Accused Shawn Johnson stalker enters insanity plea

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A man accused of stalking Olympic gold medalist Shawn Johnson entered a plea of not guilty by reason of insanity on Monday on the eve of his trial.

Robert O'Ryan, 36, entered the plea and waived his right to a jury trial, clearing the way for a judge to determine if he is guilty and sane.

Opening statements in the felony stalking and burglary case were expected to begin Tuesday.

O'Ryan is accused of going to a Los Angeles studio where Johnson was performing on "Dancing With the Stars" last year in an attempt to meet the gymnast.

Authorities said a search of the car O'Ryan drove from Florida turned up two guns and love letters to Johnson. He also faces two misdemeanor charges

Johnson

involving concealed weapons.

O'Ryan could face nearly four years in state prison and another two years in county jail if convicted. He has been jailed since his arrest last year.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Michael Pastor warned O'Ryan that if he is convicted and found to be insane, he could be confined to a state mental hospital for much longer.

Johnson, 18, was expected to testify during the trial.

The Iowa native won a gold medal and three silver medals at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and won her cycle of "Dancing With the Stars."

Li hopes autism film alternative to blockbusters

HONG KONG (AP)—Jet Li says he hopes that his new movie about autism offers a refreshing alternative to the historical and kung fu epics that dominate the Chinese industry.

The veteran action star plays an aquarium worker who cares for his autistic son in the low-budget "Ocean Heaven"—his first Chinese-language production since the 2007 release of "The Warlords."

"Nowadays everyone is making blockbusters. Making a 7 million Chinese yuan ($1 million) movie requires a lot of sincerity," Li told reporters in Hong Kong. "This movie is about sincerity. It shows that in this day and age that filmmakers are willing to do something for society."

The actor promoted the movie by visiting the dolphins at Hong Kong's Ocean Park with a small group of mentally handicapped and autistic adults.

AP

Chinese actor Jet Li , background, waves as he promotes his new movie "Ocean Heaven" by visiting the dolphins at Hong Kong's Ocean Park with a small group of mentally handicapped and autistic adults Monday, June 7, 2010.

"I hope everyone can examine what is the most important relationship in life—the relationship between parent and child," he said.

A noticeably thinner Li said he lost 18 pounds (8 kilograms) from a thyroid condition.

Like Jackie Chan, a fellow kung fu star who crossed over to Hollywood from the Hong Kong movie industry, Li also now juggles careers in Chinese and American films.

His recent Hollywood releases include "The Forbidden Kingdom," which costarred Chan, "The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor" and "The Expendables."

75 long-lost silent movies being returned to US

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—A cache of 75 long-lost silent films uncovered in the New Zealand Film Archive vault is being sent back to the United States.

Among the movies found in storage is the only known copy of "Upstream," a drama by legendary director John Ford, the earliest surviving movie by comic actor and director Mabel Normand, and a period drama starring 1920s screen icon Clara Bow. Only 15 percent of the silent films made by Ford, who won four Oscars, have survived.

Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage Christopher Finlayson said the find is important as there are no prints remaining in the U.S.

"These important films will be preserved and made available to both U.S. and New Zealand audiences to enjoy," he told The New Zealand Herald newspaper Tuesday.

Film Archive corporate services manager Steve Russell said the films were discovered when American preservationist Brian Meacham visited last year.

Many of the films remained in New Zealand because distributors at the time did not think the return shipping costs were worth the expense, he said.

"It's one of the rare cases where the tyranny of distance has worked in our and the films' favor," Russell said.

Because they were printed on unstable and highly inflammable nitrate film stock, "there are very strict conditions when sending it by air," he told the Dominion Post newspaper.

Returning the films will cost the U.S. National Film Preservation Foundation more than 750,000 New Zealand dollars ($500,000).

"We're having to ship in U.N.-approved steel barrels, a little bit at a time," said foundation director Annette Melville. "So far, we've got about one-third of the films, and preservation work has already begun on four titles."

"About a quarter of the films are in advanced nitrate decay, and the rest have good image quality, though they are badly shrunken," she added.

The late Ford's 1927 film "Upstream" was being copied onto safety stock in New Zealand to prevent further damage in transit.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences hopes to screen the restored film in September, Melville said. Copies of the films are to be made available in New Zealand through the Film Archive.

Police: Sword-wielding porn actor wanted to kill

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A porn actor who plunged off a cliff to his death as officers tried to arrest him on murder and attempted murder charges was aiming to kill or hurt as many people as possible when he went on a sword-wielding rampage last week at an adult film company's production facility, a police detective said Monday.

Stephen Clancy Hill was "hell-bent" on taking lives and was indiscriminate about his victims, police detective Joel Price said.

Hill plunged to his death Saturday after police officers trapped him on a hillside cliff overlooking the San Fernando Valley.

Price said officers believe Hill jumped rather than fell after they tried to take him into custody following a nine-hour standoff. Police said the actor, armed with the sword he used in the June 1 attack, had repeatedly threatened suicide.

News video shows Hill, still holding the sword, tumbling off the cliff after sliding to its edge from a seated position. Several officers had moved to almost within reach of him.

AP

In this photo taken June 5, 2010, Stephen Clancy Hill, 34, a porn actor suspected of fatally stabbing a former co-worker and wounding two others during a violent rampage threatens to kill himself with a samurai sword as Los Angeles Police Department SWAT team members and crisis counselors attempt to keep him from jumping off a cliff during a dramatic, daylong standoff in Chatsworth, Calif. Saturday afternoon. Clancy later fell to his death when officers moved in.

Earlier, police said he went over the cliff after a "less than lethal munition" was fired at him. They haven't said whether the projectile struck him.

"Everyone out there would have wished for a different outcome," Price said. But he said officers had to try to take Hill into custody after failing to persuade him to surrender.

Hill's death came just four days after he went on a rampage at Ultima DVD's production facility in the San Fernando Valley. He fatally stabbed one Ultima employee, Herbert Hin Wong, 30, and wounded two others, Christopher Rachal, 36, and Yuri Drell, 28.

"He was hell-bent on hurting, killing as many people as he could," Price said.

Demi Moore memoir set for 2012

NEW YORK (AP) — Demi Moore, an actress famous for showing all, will now tell all.

HarperCollins announced Monday that it had acquired a "candid" memoir by the raspy-voiced star. The book will cover her life and career and is tentatively scheduled for release in 2012.

The book doesn't have a title yet. Moore had shopped the book around with several publishers.

The 47-year-old Moore has acknowledged a troubled upbringing. HarperCollins says the narrative will be "framed by her complicated relationship with her mother, Virginia King."

Moore is known for her work in such films as "Ghost" and "Indecent Proposal." She appeared nude on the cover of Vanity Fair while pregnant and married to Bruce Willis. She has been married to Ashton Kutcher since 2005.

AP

In this June 1, 2010 file photo, actress Demi Moore arrives at the "Killers" premiere in Los Angeles.

Gary Coleman's ex-wife says they planned to re-wed

AP

In this Feb. 26, 2008 file photo, actor Gary Coleman, best known from the television series "Diff'rent Strokes" and his wife Shannon Price, appear on the the NBC "Today" television program in New York.

NEW YORK (AP) — Gary Coleman's ex-wife calls their relationship "golden" and says that before his recent death they had planned to renew their marital vows.

In an interview aired on Monday's "Good Morning America," Shannon Price says she had ordered that Coleman be taken off of life support on the advice of his doctors. The one-time child actor died May 28 in Utah at age 42 after suffering a brain hemorrhage two days earlier.

Price told ABC News that she had found Coleman lying in a pool of blood in their kitchen after hearing what she called "a big smack."

The couple had divorced in 2008, but Price says they later agreed that divorce "wasn't the right choice."

Coleman starred for eight seasons on the sitcom "Diff'rent Strokes." It debuted in 1978, when he was 10.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Pink's tour bus catches fire; no injuries

BERLIN (AP) — Police say a tour bus being used by the pop singer Pink caught fire on its way from Munich to Berlin, but there were no injuries. Bavarian police say a particle filter in the exhaust system caught fire at about 5 a.m. Monday due to a technical defect. They say the driver reacted quickly and got the bus to the side of the highway and put the fire out with an extinguisher before authorities arrived at the scene. Police say eight musicians were aboard but Pink herself was not. The band played a concert in Munich on Saturday and was on its way to Berlin for a show Tuesday night. The musicians were able to continue on their journey on a replacement bus.

Actor Don Cheadle named goodwill ambassador for UN

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP) — Actor Don Cheadle has become a spokesman for the United Nations environment program. He was appointed Saturday in Rwanda's capital as a U.N. Environment Program Goodwill Ambassador and vowed to fight climate change and promote environment conservation. UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner announced the appointment, saying that Cheadle would help raise green awareness among millions of people around the globe. Cheadle also named a baby gorilla Zoya, a name chosen by internet users as part of a UNEP awareness program. In 2004, Cheadle starred in the film "Hotel Rwanda" which told the world about the Rwandan genocide in 1994 that claimed the lives of more than 500,000 people, mostly Tutsis and moderate Hutus. The Rwandan government, however, was critical of the film.

Missing Iranian turns up after nearly 2 weeks

BERLIN (AP) — German police say an exiled Iranian artist and filmmaker has turned up in Cologne after being missing for nearly two weeks. Cologne police spokesman Andre Fassbender said Daryush Shokof was found completely drenched near the Rhine river late Saturday night. Fassbender said Monday that the 55-year-old Berlin resident was taken to a hospital but is in stable condition. He said police are looking into the case but can give no details yet. A committee of Shokof's friends said in an e-mail Sunday night that Shokof apparently had been kidnapped, but Fassbender said that is speculation and he would not comment. Shokof has made films critical of the Iranian government and his supporters say he had received threatening phone calls.

Michael Caine memoir due this fall

NEW YORK (AP) — Sir Michael Caine hasn't finished telling us what it's all about. The 77-year-old Academy Award-winning actor is working on a second memoir, "The Elephant to Hollywood," a sequel that will come nearly 20 years after "What's It All About?" Henry Holt and Company will release the new book in November. The publisher announced the book Monday. Caine's many films include "Alfie," ''Educating Rita," and two works for which he received Oscars, "Hannah and Her Sisters" and "The Cider House Rules."

Tucci signs on to superhero saga 'Captain America'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Stanley Tucci has signed on to help put Captain America in business. The Academy Award-nominated actor has joined the cast of the superhero saga "Captain America: The First Avenger." Tucci will play Dr. Abraham Erskine, who in the Marvel Comics series was a scientist behind a super-soldier program that gave the title hero his powers. Due in theaters July 22, 2011, "Captain America" stars Chris Evans in the title role and also features Hugo Weaving and Hayley Atwell. Tucci, whose credits include "The Devil Wears Prada" and "Julie & Julia," earned a supporting-actor nomination at the Oscars for last year's "The Lovely Bones."

Producer says 'Annie' returning 'tomorrow'

NEW YORK (AP) — The sun will rise in 2012 on a new Broadway production of "Annie." The Tony Award-winning musical, based on the "Little Orphan Annie" comic strip, debuted in 1977. Producer Arielle Tepper Madover said Monday she's acquired production rights to the play that sparked a childhood interest in theater. Among Madover's credits are "Hair," ''A Raisin in the Sun" and "Frost/Nixon." The "Annie" score includes the songs "It's the Hard Knock Life" and "Tomorrow," a salute to optimism that predicts "the sun will come up tomorrow." "Annie" features music by Charles Strouse, lyrics by Martin Charnin and book by Thomas Meehan, and is based on Harold Gray's long-running newspaper strip. The play's Broadway revival is scheduled for fall 2012.

Soldier's imagination gets a workout while in the gym

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am a soldier currently deployed in Iraq. My unit's mission has ended, but we must remain here for the next two months with no real mission to occupy our time. Because of this, I—along with other soldiers—spend free time in the gym.

Recently, a female American civilian contractor has started working out at the same time I do. She's gorgeous and wears skimpy, provocative clothing while working out. Because I have not seen a female in civilian clothes for many months, I find it hard not to stare.

Is it wrong for me to stare? Should I confront her and tell her that her clothing distracts me from my workout and makes me feel uncomfortable?

CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT IN IRAQ

DEAR CRUEL AND UNUSUAL: You know darn well that it's wrong to stare. Didn't your mother tell you that staring is rude? Do not "confront" the woman. Have a gym supervisor talk to her or you might get in trouble for harassment. Or better yet—change the time of your workout.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My father died six months ago after many years of declining health. He was 87 and had lived a long and rich life. My oldest brother insists we have an annual celebration on my father's birthday at Dad's favorite Chinese restaurant. This isn't how I want to honor my father. He was a simple man who liked working "behind the scenes."

Everyone in our large family showed up at the restaurant, and my mother and brother loved all the attention. I do not want to memorialize my father this way, but not participating will create a rift. Should I stay true to myself and honor Dad in my own quiet way, or fake it and go to this annual shindig that is really about my brother?

MANIPULATED IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR MANIPULATED: That's a decision I can't make for you. You need to weigh the benefits of honoring your MOTHER'S feelings against the fallout your absence would create. While this celebration may have been your brother's idea, he really doesn't figure into the equation. If your father died at 87, your mother may not be around much longer and you'll have many years to honor your dad in your own quiet way.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: After a year together my boyfriend has broken up with me. He's going through a divorce and says that right now is not a good time for us. I'm confused because he has told me I'm the best thing that ever happened to him.

He wants to keep in touch and says that maybe, down the road when things are different, we can get back together.

My friends and family think he's using me as a standby so he can live the single life but still have someone waiting on the side. I'm left wondering, does he want to get past his issues or is he just playing games?

NOT A GAME-PLAYER, PLEASANTON, CALIF.

DEAR NOT A GAME-PLAYER: Neither one. You have been dumped. The technique your "boyfriend" used is called the "easy letdown." Don't count on getting back together "down the road" or you'll waste more time on a losing proposition. In the future, hook up with a man who's available and you may have better luck.

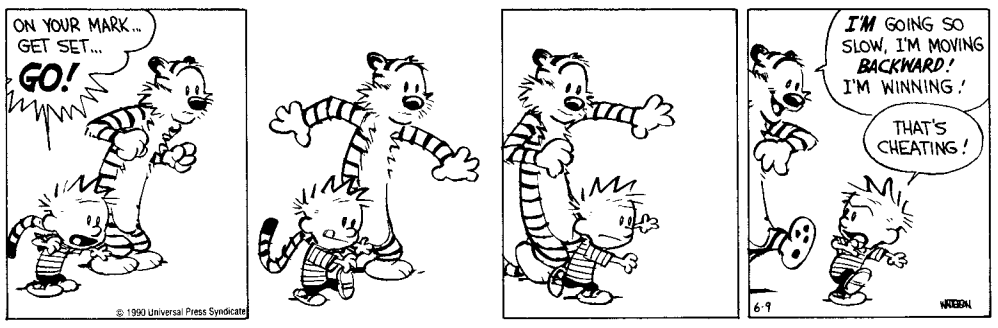
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby – Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


ON YOUR MARK... GET SET... GO!
© 1990 Universal Press Syndicate
I'M GOING SO SLOW, I'M MOVING BACKWARD! I'M WINNING!
THAT'S CHEATING!
6-9
WATTERSON

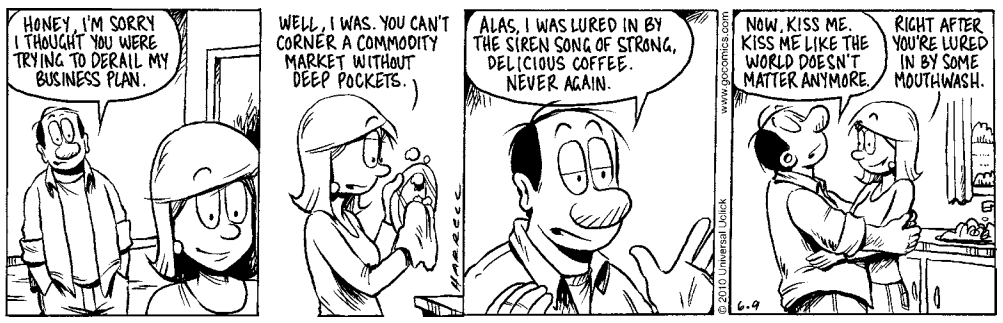
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I THINK YOU SHOULD HAVE A NICKNAME, GARFIELD
JIM DAVIS 6-9
© 2010 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
www.garfield.com
LET'S SEE, WHAT COULD IT BE?...
HOW ABOUT "LORD OF LARD"?
I LIKE IT
Distributed by Universal Uclick

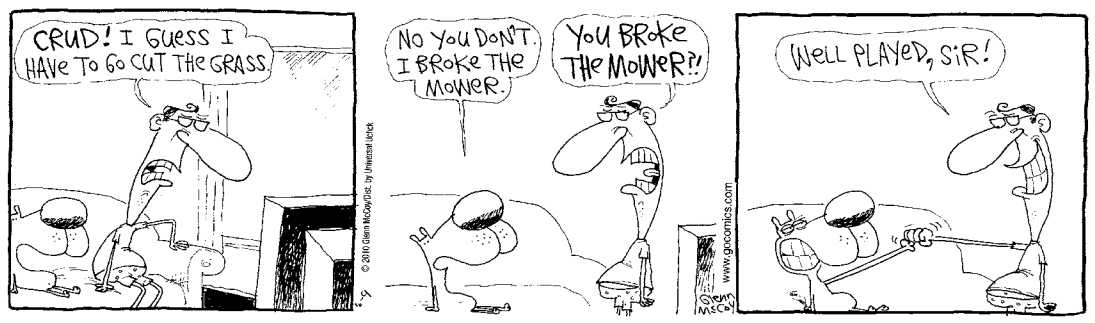
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HONEY, I'M SORRY I THOUGHT YOU WERE TRYING TO DERAIL MY BUSINESS PLAN.
WELL, I WAS. YOU CAN'T CORNER A COMMODITY MARKET WITHOUT DEEP POCKETS.
ALAS, I WAS LURED IN BY THE SIREN SONG OF STRONG, DELICIOUS COFFEE. NEVER AGAIN.
NOW, KISS ME. KISS ME LIKE THE WORLD DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE.
RIGHT AFTER YOU'RE LURED IN BY SOME MOUTHWASH.
www.gocomics.com
© 2010 Universal Uclick
6-9

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


CRUD! I GUESS I HAVE TO GO CUT THE GRASS.
© 2010 Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Uclick
6-9
No You Don't I Broke The Mower.
You Broke The Mower?!
Well Played, Sir!
www.gocomics.com

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

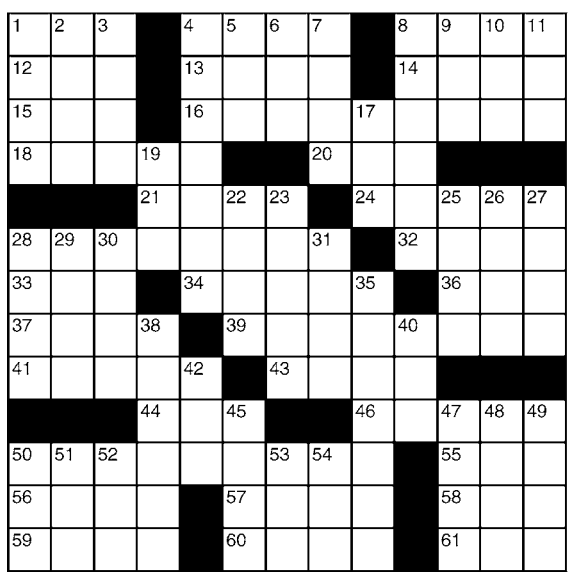
ACROSS
1 Outdated
4 Woodpecker's feature
8 Bullets and such
12 Long March leader
13 Hodgepodge
14 Fly high
15 Doctrine
16 Percussion instrument
18 Larceny
20 Atl. counterpart
21 Tress
24 Possibly
28 Greek historian
32 Christmas refrain
33 Previous night
34 Monica of tennis
36 Tibetan bovine
37 Approach
39 Yellow
41 Opening stakes
43 Antitoxins
44 Take blades to blades
46 Bring out
50 Fan of things foreign
55 Spacecraft compartment
56 "— Rhythm"
57 Tackle texts
58 Strange
59 Aching
60 Troubles
61 Unfavorable vote

DOWN
1 Leave out
2 Whip
3 Cupola
4 Redeemable proofs-of-purchase, once
5 Actor Ron
6 Have a bug
7 Former surgeon general
8 Refuse receptacle
9 Cattle call?
10 Fellow
11 Raw rock
17 Singer Tillis
19 "Alice" waitress
22 Cereal used in "party mix"
23 Caffeine-rich nuts
25 Toy on a string
26 Suitor
27 BPOE members
28 TV's "Warrior Princess"
29 Divisible by two
30 Tidy
31 Hawaiian goose
35 Thoroughfares
38 Distant
40 Possessed
42 Bribe
45 "That's a relief!"
47 "Once — a time, ..."
48 Last few notes
49 Vortex
50 Greek consonants
51 Id counterpart
52 Neither mate
53 Altar affirmative
54 Whopper

Solution time: 21 mins.

B	E	A	M	■	D	U	E	L	■	H	E	M
A	R	I	A	■	A	N	T	I	■	A	T	E
Y	A	R	D	S	T	I	C	K	■	R	U	T
■	■	■	M	E	E	T	■	E	D	D	I	E
E	M	C	E	E	■	■	A	N	E	W	■	■
L	O	A	N	■	L	O	W	E	R	I	N	G
B	A	R	■	C	O	D	E	D	■	R	O	E
A	N	D	R	O	I	D	S	■	M	E	S	A
■	■	S	U	M	S	■	■	R	I	D	E	R
O	C	H	E	R	■	G	E	E	K	■	■	■
B	O	A	■	A	A	R	D	V	A	R	K	S
O	A	R	■	D	R	A	G	■	D	E	E	P
E	L	K	■	E	M	M	Y	■	O	D	A	Y

Yesterday's answer 6-9



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Natalie Portman, 29; Johnny Depp, 47; Michael J. Fox, 49; Dick Vitale, 71

Happy Birthday: The clearer you are about your plans, the easier it will be to get them underway. Your intent and determination will enable you to make a change that is overdue. Once you start the ball rolling and you have your goals set, don't look back, slow down or give in to any obstacle that is put in your way. Your strength and courage will get you to your destination. Your numbers are 7, 9, 18, 25, 31, 36, 41

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You will be given some private information unintentionally that can help you make a beneficial career or financial decision. Jump quickly to stabilize your future. Avoid travel or dealing with pushy people. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Emotions will be high and triumphs will be yours if you are persistent in social networking situations. Present your ideas and intentions with confidence. The people you deal with will offer you the chance to alter your lifestyle. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): There will be plenty going on behind your back regarding work and what your options are. It will be difficult to get a straight answer but, if you concentrate on your own personal investments, skills and opportunities, you really don't have much to worry about. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): The impression you make if you help someone will lead to a partnership or a chance to work at something that interests you. Take care of a personal responsibility quickly and you will gain respect and popularity. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You'll face opposition if you shirk your responsibilities or you don't take a pressing problem seriously. To avoid trouble, show a little sympathy and offer help. A personal relationship can influence where you live in the future. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You will have all the right moves and will know exactly what to say in order to get what you want. A contract may need a couple of changes but don't push for perks that aren't really necessary. Your attitude will make the difference. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Slow down before you make a mistake. You may think everyone is on the same page as you but it's apparent that someone is not being totally honest. There is money to be made but you may be required to go it alone. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Travel will promote adventure, new ideas and meeting people who can change the way you do and see things. Love is in the stars and a social event or trip will give you greater options in your personal life. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Start to make some serious changes at home and to your personal life and you can reach a goal you've been striving to acquire a long time. A serious look at your past and present will help you make professional adjustments. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Love and romance are highlighted, so line up an evening of fun with your current partner. If single, attend activities or events that interest you. Investments, projects or collecting an old debt will lead to greater cash flow. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't give in to someone using emotional blackmail. Follow through with your plans but only if they are within your means. Going over budget will cause stress. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Look back and you'll find an answer to a financial or personal problem you are facing. You should spend a little money on updating your look or on something that will help you do better professionally or spiritually. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are strong, steadfast and determined to reach your goals. You are practical and patient and deal confidently with adversity.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

								2
			2	5			6	8
		5			6		3	
	3	1	8			4		
6				9		2		
	7	9	1			6		3
	8		6			3		4
		2			4	9		7
						8	5	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

7	9	6	5	2	4	3	8	1
4	5	8	1	3	6	2	7	9
2	3	1	7	9	8	5	4	6
5	8	2	6	4	3	1	9	7
3	6	4	9	7	1	8	5	2
1	7	9	2	8	5	6	3	4
6	1	7	3	5	9	4	2	8
9	4	5	8	1	2	7	6	3
8	2	3	4	6	7	9	1	5

Difficulty Level ★★ 6/08

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

AIMLESSLY SURFING THE INTERNET **Solution: 8 letters**

H	U	M	O	R	G	T	N	E	M	E	S	U	M	A
V	I	D	E	O	O	N	O	I	T	C	I	D	D	A
N	E	Y	(E)	S	S	T	O	C	K	S	A	V	S	R
O	I	N	A	(M)	S	R	U	O	H	O	E	S	N	T
I	B	G	I	L	(I)	A	H	O	L	R	E	T	O	I
S	S	O	H	L	P	(T)	G	N	T	I	W	O	I	C
S	P	K	R	T	N	E	W	I	V	U	A	R	T	L
U	O	S	R	E	P	O	S	O	N	P	N	I	C	E
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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE GUARDIANSHIP OF SISTINA RABAULIMAN, An Incompetent, By **CECILIA MAREHAM RABAULIMAN,** Petitioners.	**FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0291**

ORDER SETTING HEARING FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIANSHIP FOR INCOMPETENT PERSON

Upon petition of the petitioner, and with good cause appearing therefore, a hearing on the petitioners petition for the appointment as guardian Sistina Rabauliman shall be heard on the 15th day of June, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. Petitioner shall cause this order to be personally sreved on the alledged incompetent person must appear or be produced at the hearing scheduled on the date and time set forth above unless satisfactory proof by affidavit or testimony of a duly licensed physician, surgeon, or medical officer shows that he is unable to attend because of physical inability. Except, that, if the alleged incompetent person is a patient at a hospital in the Commonwealth, and affidavit of the medical director of the hospital to the effect that such patient is unable to attend, shall be prima facie evidence of the fact.

It is further ORDERED that Notice of Hearing and nature of the proceedings shall be personally served or mailed at least 10 days before such hearing date to each of the spouse, parents and children, or adult siblings of the alleged incompetent person residing in the Commonwealth. Any relative or friend of the alleged incompetent person may appear and oppose petition.

SO ORDERED this 26th day of May 2010.

/s/ KENNETH L. GOVENDO
Associate Judge

Rufo T. Mafnas and
Ana Liza S. Mafnas
P.O. box 5045 CHRB
Saipan, MP 96950

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTION FOR: MILEY LEANDRA DUENAS, Minor Child, By Petitioners **RUFO TENORIO MAFNAS ANA LIZA SALANGSANG MAFNAS**	**FCD AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0208** **AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING**

Date: June 17, 2010
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Court Room: 205A

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Adoption for the above-named minor child by RUFO TENORIO MAFNAS and ANA LIZA SALANGSANG MAFNAS, as Petitioners, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the office of the Clerk of the said Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said petition for Adoption will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Guma Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI, before the Honorable Kenneth L. Govendo

SO ORDERED this 4th day of June, 2010.

/s/ Clerk of Court
Superior Court

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE PETITION TO APPOINT GENERAL GUARDIANSHIP FOR: CLARISSA LOUISE MEDINA KING, Minor Child, By **JESSE JAMES CELIS and NANCIE RAE RIPPLE CELIS** Petitioners.	**FCD AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0304** **NOTICE OF HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Guardianship for the above-named minor children by Jesse James Celis and Nancie Rae Petitioners, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the office of the Clerk of the said Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said petition for Adoption will held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Guma Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI, before the Honorable Kenneth L. Govendo on the 29th day of June, 2010 at 9:00a.m.

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JOAQUIN TAISACAN QUITUGUA.,	:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 96-1249
Plaintiff,	:	
-v-	:	
FRANCISCO BLAS IGISAIAR and EDDY BLAS IGISAIAR,	:	
Defendants.	:	

THIRD AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on March 6, 2009, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant Eddy Blas Igisaiar in and to the following property: Lot No 026 K 80, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 895 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 026 K 08 dated September 24, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-3500, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Thursday, June 24, 2010, at the hour of 11:00 a.m., at The Law Office of Michael A. White, Esq., LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 16th day of May, 2010:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

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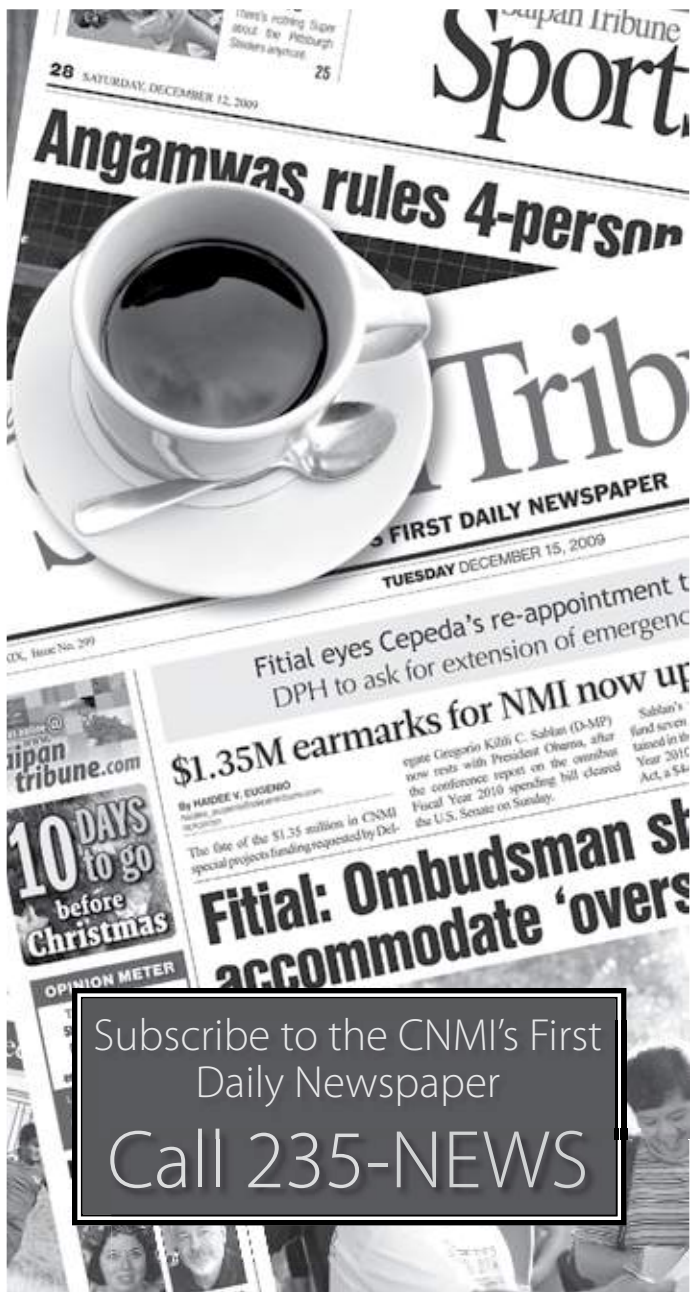

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Warm-up match stampede a wake-up call at World Cup

AP

Police restrain fans prior to the warmup match between North Korea and Nigeria in Johannesburg, South Africa, Sunday June 6, 2010.

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—No one was killed. Most of the injuries were minor. Yet a stampede at a supposedly low-key warm-up match set off alarms for World Cup organizers as they reassessed their plans for keeping fervent sellout crowds under control.

Hopes for a safe tournament remain high, officials said Monday. But the scary incident at a Nigeria-North Korea exhibition match was a stark reminder of past stadium disasters, in Africa and elsewhere, that have been one of soccer's recurring and deadly legacies.

"This is like an alarm clock," FIFA president Sepp Blatter said. "This will not happen in any match of the World Cup—you can be assured."

FIFA stressed that it played no role in arranging Sunday's match at a small stadium in Tembisa, a black township near Johannesburg. Crowds seeking some of the 10,000 free tickets on offer twice charged the gates; a policeman was seriously hurt and 15 fans also were injured.

"Please be sure that the level of organization we have at the World Cup is definitely higher than the one we have seen there," FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke said. "We have to make sure that the police working around the World Cup stadiums will do better than what we have seen yesterday."

One big difference between Sunday's match and the World Cup games: Tickets for the tournament have been sold in advance, and non-ticketholders likely will be blocked from getting anywhere near the entry gates of the stadiums. Most—but not all—of the World Cup games are sellouts.

Traffic jams are likely en route to the venues, especially if South African fans live up to their penchant for just-before-kickoff arrivals, but FIFA believes its logistical plans—including large numbers of entry gates—will minimize crushes at the stadiums themselves.

Valcke said the problems in Tembisa reflected a failure to employ FIFA's ticketing policies.

"It proves we are right to say that you should never distribute tickets at the stadium on a match day," he said. "We will keep this principle during the World Cup."

South Africa has extensive experience in hosting major international sports events, ranging from the 1995 Rugby World Cup to last year's Confederations Cup in soccer. Those have gone relatively smoothly in terms of crowd control.

However, for soccer in general, and for African soccer in particular, the historical record is checkered.

Last year, 22 people died in a stampede at a World Cup qualifying match in the Ivory Coast; FIFA fined the national soccer federation $46,800. In 2001, at least 123 people died in Accra, Ghana, in a stampede after police fired tear gas at fans throwing bottles and chairs from the stands—Africa's worst stadium disaster.

In Orkney, South Africa, 42 fans were killed in a melee and stampede at a 1991 match between the archrival Orlando Pirates and Kaizer Chiefs. Ten years later, when those same teams met at Ellis Park in Johannesburg, 43 people were killed and 155 injured as fans—many arriving without tickets—tried to push into the overcrowded stadium.

The chief operating officer of the Premier Soccer League, which includes the Pirates and Chiefs, said that was the last serious crowd-control problem for South African soccer as an array of effective countermeasures and stadium improvements were put into place.

"We haven't had any crowd disturbances since then," said the PSL's Ronnie Schloss. "I don't believe there will be crowd-control problems at the World Cup. I've seen some of the planning."

Schloss said South African soccer fans tended to be well-behaved—to the extent that PSL officials don't feel the need to place rival fans in separate sections of the stadiums.

How foreign fans behave remains to be seen. Ten Argentines identified by authorities as soccer hooligans were deported Monday to Angola after being detained at Johannesburg's airport.

"Intelligence indicated that these persons would commit acts of public disorder, engage in acts of violence and provoke conflict with certain fans of opponent teams," a police statement said.

The stampede at the Nigeria-North Korea match prompted police to change their crowd-control tactics for England's training match Monday in Moruleng, a village near Sun City, against the Platinum Stars of South Africa's Premier League. Fans were asked to show their tickets more than 40 yards (meters) from the stadium to avoid any crush at the entry gates.

Thousands of police officers, many in riot gear, surrounded the stadium. No serious trouble was reported.

One fan, Sheriff Nagoro, said he'd heard about Sunday's stampede but had no fears that there could be a repeat in the relatively remote village in North West Province.

"This match is better organized—I had no concerns at all about coming," Nagoro said.

As for Sunday's incident, the Nigeria soccer federation said it was forced to play at the Tembisa stadium because no other venue was available. FIFA, in turn, denied any responsibility—saying the match was organized primarily by Nigerian officials.

Lt. Col. Eugene Opperman, a police spokesman, said tickets for the game were given out for free at the stadium.

"What then occurred was large groups of people gathered outside the gates wanting to come in and wanting to get free tickets. Unfortunately in the process, the gates were opened and there was a stampede," Opperman said.

The stadium is nothing like those built or renovated for the World Cup. It has concrete terraces and is surrounded by a fence with gates and no turnstiles.

"We have security plans that are there," said Col. Hangwani Mulaudzi, another police spokesman. "I think this is one of those isolated cases where we did not anticipate the large number of people who would be interested in this game."

NBA finals are Boston bound tied at a game apiece

BOSTON (AP)—Chin resting in his hand, mouth barely moving as he spoke, Kobe Bryant had the look of someone who would have rather been anywhere but Staples Center.

The next few nights might make him long to be back home.

The NBA's best rivalry is returning to its East Coast headquarters, site of perhaps the most miserable moment of Bryant's career last time he and the Los Angeles Lakers were here for the finals.

And the Boston Celtics and their green-clad fans can't wait to welcome him back.

"I feel good going back to the jungle," Celtics forward Kevin Garnett said Sunday.

Those familiar "Beat L.A! Beat L.A!" chants that have echoed through the Garden during so many springtimes will be booming again, and the Celtics can lock up an 18th NBA title if they can do just that three times.

Game 2 is Tuesday night, followed by games Thursday and Sunday in Boston.

The Celtics evened the series at a game apiece with their 103-94 victory in Game 2, with guards Rajon Rondo and Ray Allen taking turns punishing the Lakers, and Bryant often powerless to stop them because of foul trouble.

A fuming Bryant had little to say afterward, offering terse responses as he looked back on that game and ahead to the next one.

"It's the most important game. Game 1 was the most important, Game 2 was the most important, now it's Game 3," Bryant said. "It's just the next game, simple as that."

The finals are deadlocked after two games for the first time since 2004, when the Detroit Pistons split a pair in Los Angeles before coming home and winning three straight to take the series. That was Bryant's first loss in the championship round.

His other one came two years ago, on a night the Lakers will never forget.

The Celtics pummeled them 131-92 in a Game 6 rout that was decided after mere minutes. While Garnett, Allen and Pierce celebrated their long-awaited first NBA title, the humiliated Lakers sat trapped in their team bus as Boston fans taunted them from the street.

"Obviously there's feelings involved and there's memories that are in there, which should help us, should help us to push through and to battle even harder," Lakers forward Pau Gasol said of that night.

Both teams were off Monday following the cross-country flight from Los Angeles. The 2-3-2 format in the NBA finals was instituted in the mid-1980s, when Lakers-Celtics matchups were as common in June as graduation parties, to limit the amount of coast to coast trips. But a return to California won't be needed if either team can win three straight.

"We took home court, so we've got a chance to play three games (at home)," Celtics forward Paul Pierce said Sunday. "But I told you all yesterday that doesn't guarantee we're going to win the games because we're at home. We've got to go out there and play the game. They're going to be coming into our house and we can't assume anything. We can't take it for granted."

The Celtics turned things around following their 102-89 loss in their opener by toughening up their defense, limiting the Lakers to 41 percent shooting. Rondo tracked down the long rebounds of many missed shots to ignite Boston's fast break, and Allen capitalized on the open looks that created by making an NBA finals-record eight 3-pointers while scoring 32 points.

The Lakers were frustrated by the foul trouble for Bryant and top reserve Lamar Odom, who has been ineffective in both games. Bryant was more annoyed with his team's defense against Boston's guards, wasting strong efforts from Gasol and center Andrew Bynum.

"It has nothing to do with scoring. Nothing. It's all defensively," Bryant said. "We gave them too many easy baskets and blew too many defensive assignments. That's it."

Now they'll have to play better on the road than they have in some previous series, having lost twice at both Oklahoma City and Phoenix earlier in the postseason.

Just like in those series, they're searching for ways to slow down a dynamic point guard. Rondo had 19 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists in his fifth career triple-double, repeatedly beating the Lakers to loose balls and then beating them down the court.

"In a sequence like this, there's no doubt it's a blow to us to lose the home court, but we anticipated this might happen, and we're just going to have to go pick it up," coach Phil Jackson said.

Los Angeles dropped all three road games during the 2008 finals, but the Celtics aren't as dominant on the parquet now as they were back then. The Lakers haven't lost in Boston since that night that ended their season two years ago, posting a pair of regular-season victories.

"Game 3 is the biggest game of the series so far. These two games are behind us," Rondo said. "You know, they're not in a bad situation at all. They're a good road team, and we're a good home team. It's going to be a good game."

Lee tosses 7-hitter as Mariners beat Rangers

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Cliff Lee allowed just seven hits in a complete game to help the Seattle Mariners end a three-game losing streak with a 4-2 victory over the Texas Rangers on Monday.

Lee (4-2), who struck out seven and walked none, didn't allow a run until Josh Hamilton's one-out RBI single in the ninth, when Michael Young and Ian Kinsler had consecutive singles to start the inning. Another run came home on a fielder's choice.

It was the 15th career complete game for Lee and second in his eight starts since the Mariners acquired him from Philadelphia last winter.

Michael Saunders hit a three-run homer for Seattle, and Rob Johnson had an RBI single off Scott Feldman (3-6).

AP

First base umpire Jeff Nelson, left, signals safe at first for Texas Rangers' David Murphy, right, as Seattle Mariners starting pitcher Cliff Lee, center, reacts to the call in the ninth inning of a baseball game Monday, June 7, 2010, in Arlington, Texas.

Red Sox 4, Indians 1

At Cleveland, Daisuke Matsuzaka pitched eight shutout innings to lead Boston past Cleveland.

Matsuzaka (5-2) gave up four hits—all singles—and was never threatened by Cleveland's punchless lineup. The right-hander continued a remarkable run by Boston's starters on the road. In the club's last nine games outside Fenway Park, the Red Sox rotation is 8-0 with a 0.70 ERA.

Marcus Scutaro hit three doubles and scored twice as the Red Sox improved to 9-2 on the road since May 18.

Boston made the most of its five hits off Fausto Carmona (4-5) in six innings.

Angels 4, Athletics 2

At Oakland, Bobby Abreu hit a two-run homer and Scott Kazmir won for the third time in four starts as Los Angeles beat Oakland for its season-best sixth straight victory.

Erick Aybar added an RBI triple as the Angels improved to 8-1 since Kendry Morales broke his leg jumping on home plate in a celebration following his game-ending grand slam against Seattle on May 29.

Abreu's first-inning drive gave Los Angeles a quick lead and the Angels built on it from there. Manager Mike Scioscia returned following a one-game absence for his daughter's high school graduation.

Howie Kendrick singled in a run as the Angels won their sixth straight in Oakland. They have outscored the A's 30-14 in those games.

Padres' 3, Phillies 1

At Philadelphia, Adrian Gonzalez's first of two solo homers broke up Cole Hamels' bid for a no-hitter with one out in the seventh and Wade LeBlanc pitched seven impressive innings as the San Diego Padres beat the struggling Philadelphia Phillies.

Hamels (5-5) gave up three hits and two runs in eight innings, losing his third straight start.

LeBlanc (3-4) allowed four hits and walked one.

Gonzalez lined an opposite-field shot into the flower bed just over the left-field wall to snap a scoreless tie. Scott Hairston connected three pitches later for a 2-0 lead.

Giants 6, Reds 5

At Cincinnati, Juan Uribe drove in four runs with two singles to provide San Francisco's lead in a back-and-forth game against Cincinnati.

Uribe had a two-run single in the third and another in the seventh, when the Giants rallied against reliever Daniel Ray Herrera (0-3) for their ninth win in their last 13 games.

Jay Bruce had three hits off left-hander Barry Zito, including a solo homer. Sergio Romo (2-3) got the victory in relief. Brian Wilson recovered from a blown save in his last outing, pitching a perfect ninth for his 15th save in 17 chances.

Cubs 6, Pirates 1

At Pittsburgh, Carlos Silva extended the best start by a Cubs pitcher in 43 years, allowing one run over seven innings, and Ryan Theriot scored four times as Chicago downed Pittsburgh.

Silva gave up four hits, struck out five and walked one in his first start against Pittsburgh since 2003. He became the first Cubs starter to go 8-0 since Ken Holtzman was 9-0 in 1967.

Rockies 5, Astros 1

At Denver, Jason Hammel pitched 7-plus crisp innings to move to tree wins and a loss since coming off the disabled list on May 15, and Clint Barmes had a two-run double as Colorado downed Houston.

Hammel (3-3) scattered six hits and struck out three in his longest outing of the season. He was lifted in the eighth after issuing a one-out walk to Michael Bourn and giving up a single to Jeff Keppinger.

Joe Beimel came in to face Lance Berkman, who hit into an inning-ending double play.

Miguel Olivo had an RBI triple for the Rockies and Todd Helton added a sacrifice fly.

Dodgers 12, Cardinals 4

At Los Angeles, Blake DeWitt hit his first home run of the year and drove in a career-high five runs to lead the Dodgers to their seventh win in nine games.

Diamondbacks 7, Braves 4

At Phoenix, Stephen Drew drove in four runs, Mark Reynolds hit his 13th home run of the season and Arizona handed NL East leading Atlanta its third loss in four games.

Welker surprised by reaction to his return

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—For Wes Welker, his presence on the practice field was just another step in his comeback from a major knee injury.

Fans and reporters saw it differently. Might the New England Patriots star receiver defy forecasts and actually be able to return for the season opener?

Even Welker was surprised by the optimistic, almost giddy, reaction to last Wednesday's workout where he did agility drills, ran routes and caught passes from Tom Brady precisely four months after surgery for a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee.

"I didn't think it'd be that big a deal," Welker said after a similar session Monday during the Patriots organized team activities. "I've been pushing it and trying to get ready and get out there with my teammates, get a few reps and try and get better as much as we can."

Still, last week's appearance left an impression that what once seemed a huge long shot after he was hurt in the final regular season game suddenly appeared possible.

Callers to talk shows and media members speculated that Welker, whose 346 receptions are the most in the NFL over the past three seasons, might actually play on Sept. 12 when the Patriots start the season with a home game against the Cincinnati Bengals.

Welker didn't speak to reporters that day. He did on Monday but sidestepped a question about whether he was aiming toward returning for that game.

"I want to get back as early as possible, and whenever that is, is when it is," he said. "My main goal is just working hard and getting back with my teammates as soon as possible."

He answered other questions just as cautiously and with a bland expression. Hinting at a timetable, he had said previously, would indicate a setback if he missed it.

So Welker goes about his work while being carefully monitored by team training and medical personnel.

"I feel pretty good out there," he said. "I still need to get back in the groove of playing ball and doing some things like that. But everything's feeling all right now."

He spent about 20 minutes Monday weaving through cones and running routes, some of them ending as so many of his regular season routes do—with a reception from Brady. He wore a brace on his left knee then went into the Patriots' indoor practice facility. He emerged later with a trainer and walked carefully down metal bleachers and onto the field where he watched from the sidelines as his teammates practiced.

Then the 5-foot-9 Welker was surrounded by a large group of reporters.

He's said he's "not really" surprised at his progress since his operation on Feb. 2. He's "been trying to do football-specific stuff from the get-go, and trying to do that as much as possible." And the brace "feels fine," but he doesn't know if he'll have to play games with it.

"I feel good," Welker said, "just trying to work hard and from day-to-day, just get better. That's been my plan from the get-go. I'm sticking to that plan."

Welker tore his ACL and damaged his medial collateral ligament, which didn't require surgery, without being touched when he planted his left leg after a short reception, his NFL-leading 123rd of the year, on the Patriots fourth offensive play of a 34-27 loss at Houston on Jan. 3.

The next day, coach Bill Belichick said, "Wes is a great competitor. And I'm sure that, whatever (the injury) is, he'll work hard as he always does to bounce back."

He apparently has.

"I've been trying to push it since Day 1 and get back as early as possible, back out there with my teammates," Welker said Monday. "I always feel confident. I wouldn't be out there if I didn't feel confident. I know the coaches and teammates have confidence in me, just like I do them. We're just going to move along as quickly as we can."

Police not recommending charges in Packers case

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Police don't plan to recommend pressing charges against a Green Bay Packers player accused of sexual assault by two women who changed their statements during the investigation, the chief overseeing the investigation said Monday.

Delton Police Chief Tom Dorner said he expects to forward the investigation's findings to prosecutors by Tuesday, but he thinks they would have a hard time proving a case.

"I think it's going to be a problem because there's too much information that contradicts between the alleged victims and the alleged suspect," Dorner said.

Officers were called early Saturday to a condo in Lake Delton where seven Packers players were staying during a charity golf event. The women initially told investigators they were sexually assaulted by more than one Packer while other players held them down.

After the players were questioned, the women changed their statements to say only one person assaulted them, Dorner said Monday.

Police cleared six of the seven players of wrongdoing. A seventh player whom police declined to identify and who has not been arrested remains under investigation.

"It's obviously troubling they would make that statement originally and shortly into the investigation change it, a pretty important piece of information ... it is weird," Dorner said of the accusers.

Sauk County District Attorney Patricia Barrett did not immediately respond to a phone message seeking comment.

Police declined to identify the women, saying only both are from Milwaukee. One is 31 years old, the other 33. Dorner said he did not know if either had an attorney.

Pacquiao again honored as Fighter of the Year

DAVE SKRETTA
AP SPORTS WRITER

BOXING

NEW YORK (AP)—Manny Pacquiao seems to win something, whether it's a fight or an award, just about every time he makes the long trip to the United States.

The newly elected congressman from the Philippines accepted his third Fighter of the Year award Friday, while his trainer Freddie Roach was honored for the fourth time by the Boxing Writers Association of America.

"Tonight I overflow with joy and gratitude. I am thankful that, just like Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier and other boxers, I decided to get into boxing," Pacquiao said.

Pacquiao won by a landslide in the voting by the organization's members, after a year that featured a spectacular second-round knockout of Ricky Hatton to win a light welterweight belt and a brutal 12th-round stoppage of Miguel Cotto that gave Pacquiao a welterweight title and belts in a record seven divisions.

Pacquiao also accepted a special award as Fighter of the Decade.

"I confronted poverty by trusting God and dreaming big," Pacquiao said. "I was convinced I could succeed in boxing. The boxing ring could be the breeding ground for my dreams."

AP

In this photo taken Thursday, May 13, 2010, boxer Manny Pacquiao smiles as the provincial board of canvassers proclaim him as the winning Congressman in the lone district of Sarangani province at Alabel township, Sarangani province in southern Philippines.

Accompanied by his wife, Jinkee, and most of his family, Pacquiao will remain in New York to watch Cotto challenge junior middleweight champion Yuri Foreman on Saturday in the first fight at Yankee Stadium in more than three decades.

He will then head to Washington on Monday to meet with U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, promoter Bob Arum said, before a family vacation in Mexico.

Then it's back to the Philippines, where Congress convenes in July.

Meanwhile, Arum will continue work on perhaps the most highly anticipated fight in decades, between Pacquiao and the undefeated Floyd Mayweather Jr.—the two contenders for the unofficial title of world's pound-for-pound champion. The two nearly reached an agreement to fight earlier this year, but negotiations broke down when Mayweather insisted on Olympic-style drug testing and Pacquiao refused to have blood drawn within 24 days of a fight.

Pacquiao went on to defeat Joshua Clottey before 51,000 fans at Cowboys Stadium near Dallas, while Mayweather packed the MGM Grand in Las Vegas for an impressive victory over Shane Mosley.

Arum declined to discuss details of the negotiations, in keeping with an agreement that he made with Richard Schaefer of Golden Boy Promotions, who is working on behalf of Mayweather. But the 78-year-old Arum said that Pacquiao is now willing to have blood tests within 14 days of the fight, the cutoff point that Mayweather had initially agreed to.

Arum also said he believes the fight, which would likely happen in November, will end up in Las Vegas rather than Cowboys Stadium or another venue that could pack upward of 100,000.

"The key element, if the fight happens, we're finding out now is that Manny Pacquiao in Las Vegas is Frank Sinatra times a hundred," Arum said Friday.

31 CNMI

From Page 28

Saipan will host the NPQ from June 14 to 18 with the Commonwealth netters squaring off against players from Guam, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia. Winners of the three age group competitions will then represent the North Pacific squad to the 2010 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji in August and battle players from the West and East teams.

This year's NPQ drew 65 players with Guam sending 14, Palau fielding five, and FSM having 13.

The 2010 edition of the POJC qualifier lured more participants than last year with the addition of the U12 age group competition. Oceania Tennis Federation included the U12 in the qualifier and in POJC to put emphasis on its program for younger players.

The Top 4 placers in the boys and girls U12 age group and the two other divisions will gain tickets to Fiji for the POJC. However, each nation is allowed to gain only two slots in each age group in the boys and girls divisions.

CNMI coach Jeff Race is optimistic about the Commonwealth's chances of getting 12 slots on the North Pacific team.

"Our players peak right. We devised a program that gives them good exposure and helps them prepare for the NPQ and POJC. Our players will be on their top form come these tournaments," Race said.

CNMI junior netters started preparing for the NPQ and POJC late last year when they competed in the inaugural Tan Holdings Classic. Several players also competed in Guam before the end of 2009.

In January, CNMI players joined the 2010 Saipan Tennis Challenge, a warm-up for the 2010 Coconut Classic, which was played in February. In March, the CNMI bets participated in the PIC tennis tournament and the following month they slugged it out in the CNMI Junior Championships.

The Commonwealth junior netters' recent tournament was the 2010 DFS Micronesian Tennis Championships where they were pitted against older and much experienced players.

"Our junior players are all set for the NPQ," Race said.

PIC

From Page 28

morial Cup and next year organizers are planning to bring the event to Guam.

Besides the PIC-Team Justice duel, organizers of next weekend's tournament are also planning to form a selection team that will challenge the Guam champion squad.

Shirley's caging Saipan coordinator Boy Lingcaso said if a team sweeps the best-of-three games, they might choose players from other Saipan teams that played last season to battle Team Justice.

Shirley's thanks sponsors

Meanwhile, Shirley's Coffee Shop (Saipan) would like to acknowledge the following for ensuring the success of the second edition of the Shirley's caging: Pacific Trading, Co., Advance X-Terminators, IT&E, Bank of Guam, Saipan Fresh Market, McGraw-Hill, and Tan Holdings.

"Without our sponsors, we would not be able to hold another Shirley's caging after its successful inaugural season last year. We hope to see more teams next year and we also hope to continue receiving support from our business community," Lingcaso said.

This year's Shirley's caging drew 15 teams; Cellular Pro, Hard Rock, Pepsi, MBCA-PIC, AON/NJ Pro Plus, Shirley's, McGraw-Hill, Bank of Guam, TBK Auto Shop, Aqua Resort Club, Mobil Oil, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Docomo/Saipan Grand Hotel, World Resort/Advance X-Terminator, and 2009 champion Micronesian Brokers, Inc.

MBI took the pennant title this year with its 11-3 record and joined World Resort, Mobil, and Fiesta in the quarterfinals. Eight other teams advanced to the single-elimination playoffs and the Ramir Trinidad-backed PIC made it all the way to the finals despite being seeded 11th in the playoffs.

PIC won over World Resort in the semifinals, 98-79, while Aqua Resort downed MBI in the other semis match, 102-92.

In the best-of-three title series, PIC won Games 1 (87-84) and 3 (85-68). Aqua Resort took Game 2, 71-65.

KAITO

From Page 28

(15 to 16) in the 50m and 800m freestyle, 50m and 100m backstroke, 50m butterfly, and 50m breaststroke. He also crushed the CNMI record in 50m freestyle, timing in at 25.39 seconds during a meet in Guam last year and passing Jonathan Sakovich's mark of 25.68 seconds (May 10, 1987).

Wong tallied three age group marks (17 to 18) in his last season as a junior swimmer for Tsunami, making records in the 50m, 100m, and 200m breaststroke. He returned to Saipan early last month, represented Tsunami Saipan in the Guam Swimming Championship, and eclipsed the CNMI national record in the 200m IM. Wong timed in at 2:13.95, passing his own mark of 2:14.48, which he logged on May 3, 2005.

Kensuke Kimura had one record in the season, the 800m freestyle. The 13-year-old Kimura clocked in at 9:48.24 in the 800m freestyle during the 2010 Saipan Swim Club-Tsunami Saipan dual meet in April, passing the 9:53.09 mark Joshua Taitano recorded in the 13 to 14 age group on Jan. 17, 1996.

Kensuke Kimura was also cited for his attendance during the 2009-2010 season. In 280 practice sessions, he missed only four, sharing the Most Attendance award with Ryosei Toda.

Tan is the first Tsunami Saipan swimmer to break records, setting marks in the 50m, 100m, and 200m breaststroke. She won the high-point award in the girls' 11 to 12 age group in last month's Guam Championship.

Joining the record breakers in the 2009-2010 season awardees' list was Lukas Kang. The seven-year-old swimmer took the Rookie of the Year plum after an impressive debut with the club. Kang won first place in the boys U8 age group in three local meets, topped his age group in the MTEC Aquathon and 2010 SSC Annual Ocean Swim, and was the high-point winner in a tournament in Guam last month. In his first season with Tsunami Saipan, Kang submitted five A times in the 8-and-under categories.

Meanwhile, Tsunami Saipan handed out a special award to Keiko Okamura. Okamura is a professional coach in Japan and comes here on Saipan to bring Japanese junior swimmers. She also coached Tsunami Saipan swimmers on several occasions when she was on island.

SILVER

From Page 28

and this race commemorates his running up and down Beach Road back when he lived on Saipan. Well known as an upstanding member of the community, Picarro was always concerned with the welfare of the people.

For more information, call Mojica at 483-4274 or email wolf@saipan.com.

Last year, veteran runners Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel and Noriko Kim topped the 16th edition of the event

Kabiriel crossed the finish line with a time of 26:21. He was followed by Filipino runner Ronald Villafria and up-and-comer Mathew Mancao who respectively came in at 27:06 and 27:14.

Jim, for her part, was the first female to cross the finish line with her time of 28:12. Coming in second and third in the women's division were Mieko Carey (30:23) and Monica Yamaguchi (33:26). ***(Walter Sutherland)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA PLAYOFF LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Wade, MIA	5	62	27	166	33.2
Anthony, DEN	6	64	50	184	30.7
Bryant, LAL	17	178	110	501	29.5
James, CLE	11	106	88	320	29.1
Rose, CHI	5	57	18	134	26.8
Nowitzki, DAL	6	58	40	160	26.7
Durant, OKC	6	43	54	150	25.0
Williams, UTA	10	67	89	243	24.3
Stoudemire, PHX	16	124	107	355	22.2
Westbrook, OKC	6	43	32	123	20.5
Billups, DEN	6	37	37	122	20.3
Gasol, LAL	17	130	83	343	20.2
Richardson, PHX	16	112	44	316	19.8
Boozer, UTA	10	89	19	197	19.7
Butler, DAL	6	43	25	118	19.7
Ginobili, SAN	10	58	58	194	19.4
Pierce, BOS	18	110	97	349	19.4
Aldridge, POR	6	40	33	114	19.0
Duncan, SAN	10	78	33	190	19.0
Nelson, ORL	14	91	51	266	19.0

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Thomas, CHA	15	24	.625
Howard, ORL	86	140	.614
Bynum, LAL	65	113	.575
Millsap, UTA	70	122	.574
Gasol, LAL	130	230	.565
Wade, MIA	62	110	.564
Nowitzki, DAL	58	106	.547
Boozer, UTA	89	168	.530
Noah, CHI	28	53	.528
Horford, ATL	67	128	.523

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Boozer, UTA	10	33	99	132	13.2
Noah, CHI	5	20	45	65	13.0
Howard, ORL	14	38	117	155	11.1
Gasol, LAL	17	65	123	188	11.1
Camby, POR	6	16	44	60	10.0
Duncan, SAN	10	30	69	99	9.9
James, CLE	11	15	87	102	9.3
Odom, LAL	17	51	105	156	9.2
Horford, ATL	11	28	71	99	9.0
Wallace, CHA	4	2	34	36	9.0

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Williams, UTA	10	102	10.2
Nash, PHX	16	161	10.1
Rondo, BOS	18	178	9.9
James, CLE	11	84	7.6
Rose, CHI	5	36	7.2
Kidd, DAL	6	42	7.0
Wade, MIA	5	34	6.8
Billups, DEN	6	38	6.3
Bryant, LAL	17	105	6.2
Westbrook, OKC	6	36	6.0

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	37	20	.649	—
New York	35	22	.614	2
Boston	34	25	.576	4
Toronto	33	25	.569	4 1/2
Baltimore	16	41	.281	21

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	33	24	.579	—
Detroit	29	27	.518	3 1/2
Chicago	24	32	.429	8 1/2
Kansas City	24	34	.414	9 1/2
Cleveland	21	35	.375	11 1/2

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	32	28	.533	—
Texas	30	27	.526	1/2
Oakland	30	29	.508	1 1/2
Seattle	23	34	.404	7 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	33	25	.569	–
Philadelphia	30	26	.536	2
New York	30	27	.526	2 1/2
Florida	28	30	.483	5
Washington	27	31	.466	6

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cincinnati	33	25	.569	–
St. Louis	33	25	.569	–
Chicago	26	31	.456	6 1/2
Milwaukee	23	34	.404	9 1/2
Pittsburgh	23	34	.404	9 1/2
Houston	22	36	.379	11

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Diego	34	23	.596	–
Los Angeles	34	24	.586	1/2
San Francisco	31	25	.554	2 1/2
Colorado	30	27	.526	4
Arizona	23	35	.397	11 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Chicago Cubs 6, Pittsburgh 1
San Diego 3, Philadelphia 1
San Francisco 6, Cincinnati 5
Colorado 5, Houston 1
Arizona 7, Atlanta 4
L.A. Dodgers 12, St. Louis 4
Boston 4, Cleveland 1
Seattle 4, Texas 2
L.A. Angels 4, Oakland 2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2010 Navy Hill Basketball League Finals and Awards Night

PHOTOS by ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members and coaching staff of Lyn's BBQ pose with their medals and trophies after ruling the 2010 Navy Hill Basketball League last month.

Division B champion Sparks pose with their trophy during the awards ceremony at the Garapan Basketball Court.

From left, best in rebounds John Norita of Rollers, best in 3-points Jason Palacios of Diamond, best in steals Leo Galarse of the Sonics, best in assists Noel David of Lyn's BBQ, and best in blocks Joshua Norita of Grillin'.

The Sparks' Tom Santos, left, grabs the rebound against Lyn's BBQ's Manolo Manalo, center.

The Sparks' Zack Babauta, behind, tries to steal the ball from Lyn's BBQ's Dan Mateo during their championship game. Lyn's BBQ won, 67-57.

The Sparks' Tom Santos bites on the fake of Lyn's BBQ's Edwin Santos.

The Sparks' Jon Norita looks for a teammate to pass the ball to.

Lyn's BBQ's Mark Castro goes for a layup.

Sparks Sahj Hossain, left, and Edwin Santos battle for the rebound.

Lyn's BBQ's Christian De Vero goes up for a floater.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

31 CNMI netters entered in NPQ

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Coach Jeff Race, standing back row right, poses with the junior tennis players named to the CNMI Team that will compete in next week's 2010 North Pacific Qualifying tournament on Saipan.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Thirty-three junior players have been named to the CNMI Team that will be competing in the 2010 North Pacific Qualifying tennis tournament next week.

The list include U12's Carl Dela Cruz, Kennedy Izuka, Aaron Lee, Moris Villanueva, Michael Jones, Luther Lizama, Emily Jones, Gabrielle Race, Tammy Ackerman, Lucy Park, and Sakura Imaya; U14's Christian Miller, Jake Lee, Angelo Jones, Tommy Choi, Chris Park, Amami Sakano, Mikayla Lopez, Melody Johnson, Jeane Bracken, and Alina Ishikawa; and U18's Rafael Jones, Clay McCullough-Stearns, Andrew Nutting, Daniel Park, Matthew Lopez, Thea and Theecel Minor, Amy Arenovski, and Ilia Corella.

See 31 CNMI on Page 26

Kaito is Tsunami's top swimmer

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center held its recognition day for the 2009-2010 season last weekend with 10-year-old Kaito Yanai getting the coveted top swimmer award.

Yanai earned the biggest award of the year after posting 10 records, the most by any Tsunami Saipan swimmer for the season. He set new marks in the 50m, 100m, 200m, and 400m freestyle, 200m backstroke, 50m and 100m breaststroke, 50m and 100m butterfly, and 200m individual medley in the boys 9 to 10 age groups. Yanai made these records when he competed in three local meets, Tokyo Sprints, and Guam Swimming Championships.

For winning the most outstanding swimmer award for the season, Yanai received a latte stone wood trophy from Tsunami Saipan president Stan Good and Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura during the recognition ceremony last Saturday at the Marianas Resort.

Besides Yanai, Tsunami Saipan also feted four other swimmers, who broke records in the 2009-2010 season. They were Angel Marie Tan, Kai Staal, Rezne Wong, and Kensuke Kimura.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kaito Yanai, center, poses with Tsunami Saipan president Stan Good and Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura after receiving the top swimmer award during the club's recognition day last Saturday at the Marianas Resort.

Staal shattered age group marks

See KAITO on Page 26

PIC duels Team Justice for Mama Shirley Memorial Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan's Shirley's Coffee Shop will be hosting the inaugural Mama Shirley Memorial Cup next week with Pacific Islands Club-Saipan and Team Justice of Guam squaring off in a best-of-three games basketball tournament.

PIC is the newly crowned champion of the Shirley's caging on Saipan, while Team Justice is the back-to-back winner of the same basketball league in Guam.

The Mama Shirley Memorial Cup will be held from June 18 to 20 at the JP Center Basketball Court in honor of Shirley Lai, the woman behind Shirley's Coffee shop who passed away late last year.

A perpetual trophy will be awarded to the winner of the Mama Shirley Me-

See PIC on Page 26

Pacific Islands Club's Ray Babauta, center, goes up for a shot against Aqua Resort Club's Ziddy Johanes, right, and Jessie Mina, during Game 3 of their title series in the Shirley's caging last year at the JP Center Basketball Court. PIC will challenge Team Justice of Guam next week for the Mama Shirley Memorial Cup.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

100 participants expected for Silver Streak

About 100 participants are expected to take part in the 17th Annual Tom Picarro Memorial Fun Run, which will take place on June 19.

The Silver Streak, which kicks off at 6am, has a distance of 4.2 miles and will begin at the main entrance of the DFS Galleria on Beach Road.

From there, the course runs south to the Japanese Tank at Quartermaster Road and back to the finish line at DFS. Check in is set from 5am to 5:55am.

Organizer Wolf Mojica said in the past most participants register on the morning of the event, but early registration is always greatly appreciated.

The cost is $10 and will include refreshments and a T-shirt for the first 125 finishers. The top male and female overall finishers will each receive trophies.

There will also be prizes for first place overall male and female as well as first, second, and third place for 13 different age divisions

Registration forms and payment can be made at the DFS Galleria, Monday through Sunday from 10:30am until 10pm daily. The money raised will go to charitable organizations on Saipan.

The Silver Streak is named after and held in honor of Thomas Picarro, the former president of the Saipan division of Duty Free Shoppers.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Last year's overall winner Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel poses with Silver Streak organizer Wolf Mojica, who is holding a stop sign at the DFS Galleria intersection.

"We want to carry on the memory of a great man who loved Saipan and did so much for tourism and for the island," said Mojica, who is the assistant general sales manager of DFS Galleria.

Picarro was remembered as an avid runner with a head of white/silver hair

See SILVER on Page 26